

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Monday, February 17, 2014



Doug Butler of Bristol, Vt., drives his unlimited dog team through the course during the 85th running of the World Championship Sled Dog Derby this weekend in Laconia, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

Northeast US Hit With Another Winter Blast

BOSTON (AP) — The latest blast of snow to hit New England dumped more than a foot in part of Massachusetts and packed heavy winds that left thousands without power Sun-

day on Cape Cod. Coastal areas in Maine and south of Boston appeared to get the worst of the storm overnight. In Massachusetts, 15 inches of snow was reported in Sandwich

and 10 inches was reported in Plymouth. In Maine, 17 inches was reported in Hancock, and 16.7 in Eastport, in the easternmost city in the U.S. The Department of Transporta-

tion said it deployed 375 trucks statewide at the height of the storm Saturday night. Wind gusts of more than 50 mph were reported Saturday night on Cape Cod, where utility

NStar said about 3,200 customers were without power on Sunday, down by more than half from earlier in the day.

Continued on page 3



VENEZUELA SAYS TOP OPPOSITION TO SURRENDER

Page 2



US DRUG POLICY FUELS PUSH FOR POT WORLDWIDE

Page 12

Venezuela:

Opposition leader Lopez to turn himself in

JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela
(AP) —

Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, the target of a Venezuelan police manhunt for allegedly inciting violence at anti-government protests that ended with three deaths, said Sunday that he will surrender himself after staging one more demonstration. In a video shot in an undisclosed location, Lopez said he didn't fear arrest but accused authorities of trying to violate his constitutional right to protest against President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government. He urged supporters to gather Tuesday in white shirts and march peacefully with him to the Interior Ministry, where he said he would deliver a petition demanding a full investigation of the government's role in the deaths. He said he would turn himself over to authorities Tuesday.

"I haven't committed any crime," said Lopez, who hasn't been seen since a news conference Wednesday night after the bloodshed. "If there is a decision to legally throw me in jail I'll submit myself to this persecution."

Lopez's comments came



A masked opposition demonstrator holds up a poster that reads in Spanish "Ideas are bullet proof! Freedom always!" at a protest in Caracas, Venezuela.

after security forces raided his home and that of his parents late Saturday, seeking to serve an arrest order on charges ranging from vandalism of public property to terrorism and homicide. Lopez wasn't at either residence in Caracas' leafy eastern district when national guardsmen and military intelligence officials arrived. Aides said neighbors banged on pots and pans to protest what they considered an arbitrary detention order. The raids capped another night of protests during

which security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets to break up a group of about 500 students who vowed to remain on the streets until all arrested anti-government demonstrators are released. Authorities said 23 people were being treated for injuries, none of them life-threatening. More protests were held Sunday without incident by late afternoon.

Lopez, a Harvard-educated former mayor, is the most prominent of a group of opposition hard-liners who are challenging two-

time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles for leadership of anti-Maduro movement. Maduro accuses the 42-year-old Lopez of leading a U.S.-backed "fascist" plot to oust him from power just two months after the ruling party's candidates won mayoral elections by a landslide. Lopez "ordered all these violent kids, who he trained, to destroy the prosecutor's office and half of Caracas and then goes into hiding," Maduro told thousands of supporters at a pro-government rally Saturday. "Turn yourself in coward." Lopez has vowed to press ahead with demonstrations calling for Maduro to give up power. The opposition blames the socialist president for Venezuela's rampant crime, 50 percent inflation and worsening shortages of basic goods. Lopez has called on Venezuelans to avoid violence. He says he had nothing to do with Wednesday's clashes between activists and police and pro-government militias after the peaceful conclusion of a rally he helped organized against Maduro's 10-month-old government. U.S. officials have denied any plotting to oust Maduro. Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday expressed concern over the rising tensions and violence surrounding the protests. □

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)



A demonstrator throws stones at the National Bolivarian Police (BNP) after clashes broke out at an opposition protest in Caracas, Venezuela.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Three dead in Sinai tourist bus bombing

KAREEM FAHIM
MAYY EL SHEIKH

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CAIRO - At least two South Korean tourists and their Egyptian driver were killed Sunday when an explosion ripped through a tour bus in a resort town in the Sinai Peninsula, in what officials said was the first deadly attack on tourists by militants in Egypt in at least three years.

The bus, which was carrying more than 30 people, had been parked in the southern Sinai town of Taba, near the border with Israel, when the blast occurred. Officials said they believed an explosive device had been placed in the vehicle, possibly under the driver's seat. Photographs of the aftermath of the bombing showed heavy damage to the chassis of the yellow bus, which was engulfed by fire after the explosion.

Health and tourism officials said they had confirmed three deaths. A rescue worker quoted by The Associated Press said that three bodies were found at the scene, as well as the burned remains of one or possibly two other people. At least 17 of the other passengers were injured, officials said.

A spokesman for Egypt's president, Adly Mansour, called the bombing a "despicable act of cowardice directed at innocent tourists." There were no claims of responsibility, but the bombing appeared to offer worrying new evidence that militants who have been attacking Egypt's security forces for months were broadening their campaign against civilians. Since the military ouster of Egypt's last elected president, Mohammed Morsi, in July, jihadists operating mostly in the northern Sinai have carried out hundreds of bombings, assassinations and at least one attack using a rocket-propelled grenade. The victims have included soldiers, police officers and Christian residents. □

Northeast US hit with another winter blast

Continued from Front

In Rhode Island, transportation officials warned drivers to expect difficult travel conditions through the Monday morning commute, blaming strained road salt supplies that forced them to apply only a limited amount ahead of the storm.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation said it was applying sand for traction on roadways that were left covered with snow and ice, but that roads were likely to refreeze Sunday night and black ice was likely. Rhode Island received between 3 and 8 inches of snow, according to the National Weather Service.

Toronto has called an extreme cold weather alert as the temperature was expected to drop to minus-5 on Sunday night. The alert, in effect until further notice, was called to trigger additional services for the homeless. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in parts of Newfoundland were warning residents only to venture out in emergencies because of whiteout driving conditions.

The weekend snowstorm comes on the heels of an earlier storm that blanketed the East Coast with snow and ice, caused at least 25 deaths and left hundreds of thousands without power. □



A stranded traveler crosses a parking lot at a service station in Borden-Carleton, Prince Edward Island, on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014. The Confederation bridge connecting the island to New Brunswick was closed due to a major winter storm that has battered the Maritimes with high winds, blowing snow and storm surges along the coast.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Andrew Vaughan)

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Verdict in Florida again raises self-defense issue

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP)

— An attempted murder verdict in Florida is again raising the issue of self-defense and race, just seven months after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting of a black teenager, Trayvon Martin. Michael Dunn, a white 47-year-old software developer, could face 60 years in prison following his conviction Saturday on multiple counts of attempted murder for shooting into a carful of teenagers outside a Jacksonville convenience store in 2012. Jordan Davis, a black 17 year old, was killed in the shooting, but the jury couldn't reach a verdict on the first-degree murder charge against Dunn. A mistrial was de-

clared on that count.

The verdict is a far cry from one delivered in the Zimmerman case, when he was acquitted in July in the shooting death of 17-year-old Martin in Sanford, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) south of Jacksonville.

Like Zimmerman, Dunn said he felt his life was in danger when he fired the shots. But the verdict suggested the jury struggled to see it that way.

Following an argument over loud music coming from the car that Davis was in, Dunn said he shot at the car with his 9mm handgun — he said he was afraid and thought he saw a shotgun in the car.

Legal experts say it's likely that at least one mem-



Michael Dunn reacts after the verdict is read in Jacksonville, Fla., Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014. Dunn was convicted of attempted murder in the shooting death of a teenager over an argument over loud music, but jurors could not agree on the most serious charge of first-degree murder.

(The Florida Times-Union, Bob Mack, Pool)

ber of the jury believed Dunn's story — about be-

ing scared, pulling a gun in self-defense and firing the first few shots, which killed Davis. After more than 30 hours of deliberations over four days, the jury couldn't agree on the first-degree murder charge.

"Although I don't think the evidence supports this, it is possible that the jury felt that Dunn was proper to stand his ground as to Davis, but his shooting of the others in the car was excessive," said Kenneth Nunn, a law professor at the University of Florida.

Nunn and other experts said Sunday that it's possible the jury was confused regarding first-degree murder and the concept that it must be "premeditated." Another area of confusion for the general public is Florida's stand your ground defense law, which was a flashpoint during the Zimmerman case and, to a lesser degree, in this case. Zimmerman told police he shot Martin only after the African-American teenager physically attacked him; Martin's family and supporters say Zimmer-

man, who identifies himself as Hispanic, marked Martin as a potential criminal because he was black.

In both the Dunn and Zimmerman trials, lawyers decided not to pursue a pretrial immunity hearing allowed by Florida's stand-your-ground law. But in each case, jurors were told by the judges that they should acquit if they found the defendant had no duty to retreat and had the right to "stand his ground." That phrase is part of standard instructions given jurors when they weigh a case involving a claim of self-defense.

But the state's stand your ground law was technically not part of either trial.

"Dunn's attorney argued self-defense, which has been around forever," said Miami defense lawyer and former assistant U.S. Attorney David Weinstein. "I think people will say that because some of the language from the stand your ground statute gets embedded into the jury instructions, that stand your ground has an effect." □

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Craigslist killing suspect claims 22 other victims

SUNBURY, Pennsylvania

(AP) — A woman charged along with her newlywed husband with killing a man they met through Craigslist admitted to the slaying in a jailhouse interview with a newspaper and said she has killed more than 20 other people across America, claims which police said they are investigating.

In an interview with The Daily Item in Sunbury, 19-year-old Miranda Barbour said she wants to plead guilty to killing Troy LaFerrara in November. She also said in the interview she has killed at least 22 others from Alaska to North Carolina in the last six years as part of her involvement in a satanic cult.

"I feel it is time to get all of this out. I don't care if people believe me. I just want to get it out," Barbour told the newspaper for a story published Saturday night. Sunbury police Chief Steve Mazzeo told the newspaper that investigators were aware of Miranda Barbour's claims of involvement in other murders. He said they are "'seriously concerned" and have contacted police in other jurisdictions.

In a statement issued Sunday, the FBI's Philadelphia division said it had been in contact with Sunbury police and "will offer any assistance requested in the case."

Miranda Barbour's lawyer did not immediately return messages from The Associated Press left at his office Sunday. Mazzeo did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment left at his office Sunday.

Attorneys for Barbour and her husband, 22-year-old Elytte Barbour, have both sought psychiatric evaluations for their clients.



Miranda Barbour is led out of the courthouse in Sunbury, Pa. In a jailhouse interview with The Daily Item newspaper in Sunbury, Pa. published Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, Miranda Barbour, charged along with her newlywed husband Elytte Barbour in the murder of a man they met through Craigslist, admitted to the slaying and said she has killed more than 20 others across the country, claims police said they are investigating.

(AP Photo/Christine Baker)

Miranda Barbour's attorney also asked a judge last week to toss out statements she made before she was charged. Public defender Ed Greco said in the motion that Barbour wasn't afforded an attorney despite repeated requests during two police interviews.

Barbour said in the jailhouse interview that she wanted to plead guilty at her arraignment, but that Greco pleaded not guilty for her. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for both defendants in LaFerrara's killing.

Miranda Barbour, a petite woman with long brown hair, told investigators she met the 6-foot-2, 278-pound victim after he responded to her Craigslist ad offering companionship for money.

Elytte Barbour told investigators they committed the crime because they wanted to kill someone together. □

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High minimum-wage states lure workers

KIRK JOHNSON

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ONTARIO, Ore. - Carly Lynch dreams of a life one day on the professional rodeo circuit, but for now she commutes 20 miles from Idaho to this small city in eastern Oregon to work as a waitress. There are restaurant jobs closer to home, but she is willing to drive the extra miles for a simple reason: Oregon's minimum wage is \$1.85 higher per hour than Idaho's.

"It's a big difference in pay," said Lynch, 20, who moved last summer from her parents' home in Boise, 30 miles farther east, to make her Oregon commute more bearable. "I can actually put some in the bank."

In the nation's debate about the minimum wage, which President Barack Obama has proposed increasing at the federal level to \$10.10 from \$7.25, this rolling borderland of onion farms and strip malls provides a test tube of sorts for observing how the minimum wage works in daily life, and how differences in the rate can affect a local economy in sometimes unexpected ways.

Lynch is one of the many minimum-wage migrants who travel from homes in Idaho, where the rate is \$7.25, to work in Oregon, where it is the second highest in the country, \$9.10. Similar migrations unfold

every day in other parts of Idaho - at the border with Washington, which has the highest state minimum, \$9.32, and into Nevada, where the minimum rate tops out at \$8.25.

Their experiences underscore what many proponents of raising the wage assert: that even seemingly small increases in pay can galvanize people's lives, allowing workers to quit second jobs, buy cars or take vacations.

And although some business owners along the border said raising the minimum wage could keep them from adding extra employees, they also said larger economic forces were more important. For example, minimum-wage service jobs in stores, restaurants and motels have boomed on the Oregon side, despite its higher rate, mostly because Oregon has no sales tax.

The competition for workers has in turn forced many businesses on the Idaho side to raise their wages.

"I have to offer more to my employees to keep them," said Steven Lindsay, owner of Main Street Automotive, a repair shop in Payette, Idaho, 6 miles from Ontario. "People are going to go to where the money is. You can't blame 'em. They have to make a living."

But opponents of raising the minimum wage can also point to evidence here of

negative, or uneven, consequences. When wages go up, they say, prices do as well. And a question resonates here no matter what side you are on: Can any region dependent on the minimum wage ever fully prosper?



Carly Lynch, left, who commutes from Idaho for Oregon's higher minimum wage, at work beside the restaurant owner Angena Grove at Mackey's Steak House & Pub in Ontario, Ore. In the nation's debate about the minimum wage, Idaho and Oregon provide a test tube of sorts for observing how the minimum wage works in daily life, and how differences in the rate can affect a local economy in sometimes unexpected ways.

(Kyle Green/The New York Times)

Todd Heinz, who owns three coffee shops called Jolts and Juice with his wife, Vicki - two on the Oregon side, one in Idaho - likened the result to a treadmill when Oregon's wage went up Jan. 1 by 15 cents under an automatic system linked

"It feels like a wash," he said. "It is not the consumer that wins, because most businesses will pass their increase on to the consumer through higher prices. The business doesn't win, because they are forced to increase their prices to maintain proper margins to keep their doors open, thus affecting current customers and the potential of loss of new business. The employee doesn't win, because they are the consumer."

States are allowed to mandate minimum wages higher than the federal rate, and 21 have done just that. (Oregon's wage has been higher than the federal minimum since the early 1990s.) Twenty states have kept to the federal standard, including Idaho, which has the highest percentage among all states of hourly workers earning the minimum wage or less, according to federal figures.

ing her to compete in more barrel racing events, her rodeo specialty. Two months ago, she even bought a second horse, a gelding paint named Blue Duck.

But Mackey's owners also told her that she would have to work harder than before for that money. Higher labor costs meant getting rid of the dishwasher, for one thing, said Angena Grove, who owns the restaurant with her husband, Shawn. And whereas Lynch covered three tables at a time in her old Idaho job, Mackey's waitresses, with the owners helping out, cover five.

"You work for the money," Lynch said.

Regardless of the differences in the minimum wage, poverty rates have remained high for many years on both sides of the border. In Malheur County, which On both sides of the border, few question that life at the minimum wage is hard. □

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Hunter sues over alleged fraudulent big game hunt

SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press

RENO, Nevada (AP) — A big-game hunter from Montana is suing a Canadian

animal.

"I could tell right away," Vukasin told The Associated Press. "I was sick."

The native Montanan who

to the point he suspects they are at least two years old.

Vukasin said Matison and the booking outfitter —

Ameri-Cana Expeditions Inc. of Edmonton, Alberta — first insisted the horns were the originals, then offered to send a replacement. He's demanding reimbursement or his original horns, but he said a possible exchange is complicated by international treaties governing hunting of argali, a threatened species in Tajikistan. Only 60 permits are issued there annually for the sheep named after the 13th century explorer. The Safari Club International considers the argali's horns the "most spectacular" of all the world's sheep, according to its record book. Vukasin shot his in the same region where Matison had served as guide about a month before for Soudy Golbachi of Augusta, Georgia, when he set a club record for landing one with horns more than 71 inches (180 centimeters) long.

Vukasin said Ameri-Cana co-owner Dan Frederick dismissed his concerns, telling him "it's just hunting." "Granted," Vukasin said, "you can have bad weather

er or you might not see any animals or you might miss the shot. That's hunting.

"But to shoot the animal and take pictures of it and then not to get it, somebody has to be responsible."

Frederick didn't immediately return calls or email seeking comment. The Associated Press was unable to locate Matison.

Vukasin said he contacted an FBI agent in Great Falls, who indicated he probably was a fraud victim but there was little authorities could do unless they found a number of other hunters who'd also been duped.

FBI spokesman William Facer in Salt Lake City said on Friday the agency could not comment.

Linda Linton, a Reno lawyer, said she filed Vukasin's lawsuit there because Matison and Ameri-Cana advertise and do business there regularly at conventions of the Safari Club International and the Wild Sheep Foundation, the latter of which named Matison to its Mountain Hunter Hall of Fame in 2009. □



This Dec. 2012 photo provided by Rick Vukasin shows Vukasin, 65, of Great Falls, Mont., posing with a rare argali sheep known as the "Marco Polo" that he shot in the Pamir mountains of north-east Tajikistan near Karakul Lake along the Chinese border. Vukasin filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Reno on Feb. 6, 2014 against a Tajikistani guide and Canadian outfitter he accuses of defrauding him by shipping him horns taken from an animal other than the 58-inch long ones he says belonged to the sheep he shot.

(AP Photo/Rick Vukasin)

dian outfitter and a world-renowned hunting guide in Tajikistan he accuses of turning his once-in-a-lifetime adventure of bagging a rare, wild argali sheep known as the "Marco Polo" into a nightmare.

Rick Vukasin said in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Reno last week that he spent more than \$50,000 pursuing the animal in the Pamir mountains of north-east Tajikistan near China's border in December 2012. The 65-year-old electrician said he felt like he was literally on top of the world after he tracked, shot and killed a 400-pound (181-kilogram), big-horned ram with the coveted, spiraling horns at an elevation of 14,000 feet (4,267 meters). But he was mortified two months later when he opened up the box shipped to his home in Great Falls to find the horns were not the 58-inch (147.32-centimeter)-long ones from his trophy

grew up hunting deer on the eastern front of the Northern Rockies had stalked moose in Saskatchewan and red stag elk in New Zealand.


"But the thing I really wanted to do was a Marco Polo sheep hunt," he said. He poured over books, guides and websites before settling on the excursion halfway around the world.



"The biggest of the species is in Tajikistan. So I figured if I was only going to be able to do this once, I'm going top shelf," he said.

Vukasin and his guide, Yuri Matison, saw animals the first day but had difficulty tracking them partly because it's hard to breathe at that altitude, he said. But the next day he said he "felt lucky" to land a prize with a rack in "pretty good shape ... not all busted up from fighting."

The horns he ended up with are missing a few noticeable chips and weathered



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Winter's not just cold and snowy, it's expensive

SHAILA DEWAN

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The mighty \$16 trillion U.S. economy can easily shrug off a snowstorm or two, even in regions unaccustomed to wintry snow and ice. But a prolonged bout of unusual weather is taking a toll, especially on small businesses like Abbadabba's, a shoe store chain in Atlanta, which has weathered two major storms this year.

"It's been bad, but it goes back even further than just this winter," said Kristen Dellaporta, the chief financial officer, explaining that two years of mild winters had prompted the store to cut back on cold-weather gear, and an exceptionally rainy summer had helped to squelch profits in 2013.

This year, the company has

lost business not only because it had to shut down during the storms but also because it couldn't meet customer demand. "Last year we had boots and no winter, this year we had winter but no boots," Dellaporta said. "We all need to start buying the Farmer's Almanac, I guess."

Abbadabba's, where a wall of spring flip-flops is on display, generally places orders six months in advance and cannot restock on short notice. "When you're small retail, your real business is inventory management, just having the right things at the right time," Dellaporta said. "I would have loved to have been stocked up on nothing but rain boots, but that wouldn't be practical."

Economists have placed

much of the blame for a recent spate of weak economic data on the effects of the unseasonable cold in the Northeast, Midwest and South, which they project

buy a car - or self-balancing - a hardware store may sell less paint and drywall but more shovels and salt. If a factory shuts down for a couple of days, chances

up. Valentine's Day was blissfully sunny, putting an end to the immediate worries of both McNally, who got a flurry of last-minute reservations, and Susan



Demonte Polen tries on a pair of boots at Abbadabba's, a shoe store chain that lost business because it was not stocked for the two major storms so far this year, in Atlanta, Feb. 14, 2014. Economists have placed much of the blame for a recent spate of weak economic data on the effects of the unseasonable cold in the Northeast, Midwest and South, which they project will shave a few tenths of a percent off the growth of gross domestic product in the first quarter.

(Tami Chappell/The New York Times)

ect will shave a few tenths of a percent off the growth of gross domestic product in the first quarter.

But much of the sudden slowdown in hiring, industrial production and retail sales, they hope, will be shrugged off come spring. Consumers seem to believe this, too. The Thompson Reuters University of Michigan preliminary index of consumer sentiment for February, released Friday, showed that a slight drop in satisfaction with current economic conditions was offset by an uptick in optimism for the future.

Many weather effects are either transient - a snowstorm may keep you from the car dealership for a day or two, but it probably won't cancel your plans to

are it will simply fill its orders a little later. But in some industries, losses cannot be made up so easily. A restaurant forced to shutter on a Tuesday is not going to sell twice as many burgers on Wednesday. At London Grill, a restaurant in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia, revenue is down 10 percent more than in the usual January slump, said Terry Berch McNally, a co-owner. But weather can also be fickle: On Thursday, just as McNally was fretting about whether her Valentine's Day bookings would fall through, the afternoon brought twice as many drinkers as usual because local employers had closed early.

When weather strikes repeatedly, losses can build

McKee, at Old City Flowers in Philadelphia.

Thankfully, McKee said, the biggest day of the year for florists would not be a bust. But her revenue for 2014 is down about half from what it would usually be. Inventory has been hard to get because of grounded planes. Walk-in sales have been slow.

"It's crushing me," she said Thursday, when Philly was blanketed by snow and ice. "I have thousands of dollars invested in perishable gorgeous flowers that I can't get anywhere. I have three trucks parked outside the store, and I can't move the trucks. This day is lost. There was no revenue today."

Continued on Page 27

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Syria: US made negative climate at Geneva talks

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's foreign minister on Sunday accused the United States of trying to create a "negative climate" for dialogue at the second round of peace talks in Geneva.

The comments by Walid al-Moallem come a day after the meetings between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and the opposition seeking his ouster ended without finding a way of breaking the impasse in the nearly three-year-old conflict.

Al-Moallem spoke to the state news service about the talks as the Syrian delegation was returning from Switzerland to Damascus on Sunday.

He said the U.S. tried to "create a very negative climate for dialogue in Geneva."

The leader of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, pledged to fight on alongside Assad's troops until Sunni Muslim extremists fighting with the rebels are defeated.

"We will remain where we should be, our policy hasn't changed," Nasrallah said in a televised speech to commemorate the death of three of the group's leaders, including top military commander Imad Mughniyeh who was killed in a Damascus car bombing in 2008. □

Ukrain:

Protesters end occupation of Kiev's city hall

ANDREW HIGGINS
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KIEV, Ukraine - Ending their occupation of City Hall in Kiev, Ukrainian protesters withdrew from the large granite building Sunday - but then quickly threatened to take it back if the authorities did not immediately fulfill a pledge to drop all criminal charges against political activists. The departure from the building in the capital after more than two months eased tensions - temporarily, at least - in the stand-off between protesters and President Viktor Yanukovich, who set off the country's tumultuous political crisis in November by spurning a trade deal with the European Union and tilting Ukraine, a former Soviet republic of 46 million people, toward Russia instead.

In a statement from Brussels, Catherine Ashton, the EU's foreign policy chief, welcomed the evacuation of City Hall as evidence that, after weeks of demands and counter-demands by each side, "several important steps have been undertaken during the last few days to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine, thus contributing to a Ukrainian way from the current political crisis." At the same time, however, tens of thousands of people poured into Independence Square in Kiev on Sunday to join a boisterous but peaceful anti-

government rally that featured speeches denouncing Yanukovich's "bandit regime" and calling for his swift resignation.

How far both sides were willing to go toward a more enduring truce or even a settlement might become clearer Tuesday, when Parliament reconvenes and Yanukovich might present

In an interview posted on the website of the Ukrainian weekly Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, Yulia V. Tymoshenko, a former prime minister and opposition leader jailed after Yanukovich defeated her in the 2010 election, said that she was willing to take part in negotiations to end the crisis but added that "the only topic" up for dis-

Located inside an area of central Kiev blocked off by barriers, City Hall, although no longer crammed with protesters, remained beyond the reach of the authorities.

But in a sign that neither side wants to return to the violent clashes that killed at least three protesters last month, the police pulled



Men with homemade shields stand guard beside barricades outside the office of the regional governor in Lviv, Ukraine. Three months after the outbreak of demonstrations in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, over the president's decision to spurn a deal with Europe and tilt towards Russia, power has shifted decisively in the western half of this divided country, where the president has never had much support.

(Sergey Ponomarev/The New York Times)

a new candidate for prime minister to fill a post vacant since the last prime minister resigned, in January.

Arseniy P. Yatsenyuk, an opposition leader who last month rejected an offer from Yanukovich to take the post, said at the rally Sunday that the roughly 2,000 criminal cases against protesters must be closed.

cussion was the manner of the president's resignation, including "guarantees for the protection of his family." Most barricades erected around Independence Square to fend off a possible attack by the riot police remained in place Sunday, guarded by masked young men carrying homemade shields and wooden clubs.

back from barricades on Hrushevsky Street, the soot-smeared scene of the worst violence, and protesters cleared a narrow passageway for vehicles to pass through tangled mounds of garbage, rubber tires, sandbags and ice. A line of masked men in helmets, however, blocked all traffic and pedestrians. □

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John Kerry mocks those who deny climate change

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday called climate change perhaps the world's "most fearsome" destructive weapon and mocked those who deny its existence or question its causes, comparing them to people who insist the Earth is flat.

In a speech to Indonesian students, civic leaders and government officials, Kerry tore into climate change skeptics.

He accused them of using shoddy science and scientists to delay steps needed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at the risk of imperiling the planet. A day earlier, the U.S. and China announced an

agreement to cooperate more closely on combating climate change.

American officials hope that will help encourage others, including developing countries like Indonesia and India, to follow suit. China and the United States are the biggest sources of emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that cause the atmosphere to trap solar heat and alter the climate.

Scientists say such changes are leading to drought, wildfires, rising sea levels, melting polar ice, plant and animal extinctions and other extreme conditions.

Also in the Jakarta speech, Kerry said everyone and every country must take responsibility for the problem and act immediately.



Secretary of State John Kerry takes a selfie with a group of students before delivering a speech on climate change on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in Jakarta, Indonesia. Climate change may be the world's "most fearsome" weapon of mass destruction and urgent global action is needed to combat it, Kerry said on Sunday, comparing those who deny its existence or question its causes to people who insist the Earth is flat.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

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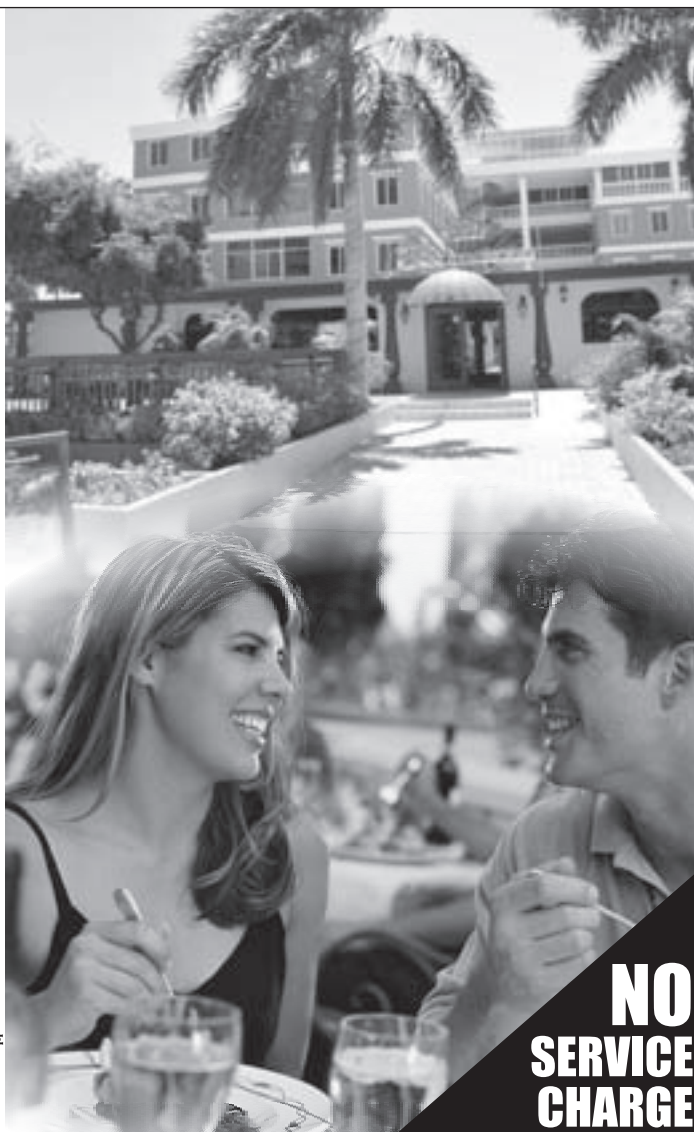
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"We simply don't have time to let a few loud interest groups hijack the climate conversation," he said, referring to what he called "big companies" that "don't want to change and spend a lot of money" to act to reduce the risks.

Kerry later singled out major oil and coal concerns as the primary offenders.

"We should not allow a tiny minority of shoddy scientists and science and extreme ideologues to compete with scientific facts,"

Kerry told the audience at a U.S. Embassy-run American Center in a shopping mall.

"Nor should we allow any

room for those who think that the costs associated with doing the right thing outweigh the benefits."

"The science is unequivocal, and those who refuse to believe it are simply burying their heads in the sand," Kerry said.

"We don't have time for a meeting anywhere of the Flat Earth Society,"

Kerry said the cost of inaction will far outweigh the significant expense of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that trap solar heat in the atmosphere and contribute to the Earth's rising temperatures. He outlined a litany of recent weather disasters. □

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Swiss nationalists want swift limit to immigration law

GENEVA (AP) — The nationalist Swiss People's Party called Sunday for swift action to prevent a mass influx of foreigners to Switzerland this summer, when a temporary limit on immigration from eight Eastern European countries expires. The demand comes a week after Swiss voters narrowly backed the party's plan to cap immigration for all types of foreigners, including those from the European Union, within three years.

"We are facing a massive wave of immigration," the head of the People Party, Toni Brunner, said in an interview with Swiss weekly *Schweiz am Sonntag*, citing the surge of foreigners who arrived when Switzerland opened its borders to workers from 15 EU countries in 2008.

The agreement was meant to extend to citizens of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary from June 1, and to Bulgaria and Romania in 2016. But the outcome of the Feb. 9 referendum means the Swiss government needs to revise its treaties with the European Union, setting Bern up for difficult negotiations with Brussels in the coming months. Although Switzerland isn't a member of the 28-nation bloc it has adopted many of its policies in order to facilitate trade and scientific cooperation with its EU neighbors. □

Plane with 18 people missing in Nepal's mountains

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Nepal Airlines plane flying in bad weather with 18 people on board was missing Sunday and feared to have crashed in Nepal's mountainous west, officials

said.

Contact was lost with the plane a few minutes after it made an unscheduled fuel stop in the city of Pokhara on its flight from the capital, Katmandu, to the town of Jumla, said Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal official

Ram Hari Sharma.

Another aviation official, Dharmendra Pandey, said villagers in Argakhachi district reported that the plane had crashed in a remote mountainous area. He said police were trying to reach the area.



A Nepal Airlines' DeHavilland DHC6 Twin Otter with 18 people on board flying in bad weather went missing in Nepal's mountainous west on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014. The plane left Sunday from the resort town of Pokhara after making an unscheduled fuel stop, but contact was lost a few minutes later, said Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal official Ram Hari Sharma. (AP Photo/NOAA)

The de Havilland Canada-manufactured Twin Otter plane had 15 passengers and three crew members on board. One of the passengers was believed to be a Danish national, while the rest on board, including a child, were Nepalese, Sharma said.

It was snowing this weekend in parts of the mountainous region, and visibility was low due to fog.

A rescue helicopter was trying to reach the area where contact with the plane was lost, but the weather conditions were making it difficult.

The plane was scheduled to fly directly from Katmandu to Jumla, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) to the west, but stopped to refuel at Pokhara's airport about a third of the way into the journey.

In May, another plane of the same make and model operated by state-owned Nepal Airlines crashed while attempting to land at a mountain airstrip in northern Nepal, injuring all 21 people on board. □

More than 140 Brazilian cities ration water

SAO PAULO (AP) — More than 140 cities are rationing water amid the worst drought to hit Brazil in decades, according to a survey conducted by the country's leading newspaper. The *Folha de S. Paulo* newspaper wrote Saturday that water is being rationed to close to six million people living in 142 cities

in 11 states. The newspaper quoted water supply companies saying reservoirs, rivers and streams are the driest they've been in 20 years. Some neighborhoods in the city of Itu in Sao Paulo state only receive water for 13 hours, once every three days. Water consumption normally grows by up to 20

percent during the Southern Hemisphere's summer. But this year, consumption has risen by up to 30 percent due to a prolonged heat wave affecting several states. The Cantareira water system, the largest of six that provide water to some 9 million of the 20 million people living in the metropolitan area of Sao

Paulo city, is at less than 19 percent of its capacity of 1 trillion liters (264 billion gallons), water utility Sabesp said Saturday on its website. Sabesp described the situation at Cantareira as "critical" because the amount of rain registered between December 2013 and January 2014 was the lowest in 84 years. □

US drug policy fuels push for legal pot worldwide

GENE JOHNSON

The Associated Press

KINGSTON, JAMAICA (AP)

- In a former colonial mansion in Jamaica, politicians huddle to discuss trying to ease marijuana laws in the land of the late reggae musician and cannabis evangelist Bob Marley. In Morocco, one of the world's top producers of the concentrated pot known as hashish, two leading political parties want to legalize its cultivation, at least for medical and industrial use. And in Mexico City, the vast metropolis of a country ravaged by horrific cartel bloodshed, lawmakers have proposed a brand new plan to let stores sell the drug.

From the Americas to Europe to North Africa and beyond, the marijuana legalization movement is gaining unprecedented traction — a nod to successful efforts in Colorado, Washington state and the small South American nation of Uruguay, which in December became the first country to approve nationwide pot legalization. Leaders long weary of the drug war's violence and futility have been emboldened by changes in U.S. policy, even in the face of opposition from their own conservative populations. Some are eager to try an approach that focuses on public health instead of prohibition, and some see a potentially lucrative industry in cannabis regulation.

"A number of countries are saying, 'We've been curious about this, but we didn't think we could go this route,'" said Sam Kamin, a University of Denver law professor who helped write Colorado's marijuana regulations. "It's harder for the U.S. to look at other countries and say, 'You can't legalize, you can't decriminalize,' because it's going on here."

That's due largely to a White House that's more open to drug war alternatives.

U.S. President Barack Obama recently told The New Yorker magazine that he considers marijuana

less dangerous to consumers than alcohol, and said it's important that the legalization experiments in Washington and Colorado go forward, especially because blacks are arrested for the drug at a greater rate than whites, despite similar levels of use.

His administration also has criticized drug war-driven incarceration rates in the U.S. and announced that it will let banks do business with licensed marijuana

on them was the Obama administration's public silence before votes in both states and in Uruguay.

It all creates a "sense that the U.S. is no longer quite the drug war-obsessed government it was" and that other nations have some political space to explore reform, said Ethan Nadelmann, head of the nonprofit Drug Policy Alliance, a pro-legalization group based in New York. Anxiety over U.S. reprisals

about the roughly 300 young men each week who get criminal records for possessing small amounts of "ganja." Others in the debt-shackled nation worry about losing out on tourism dollars: For many, weed is synonymous with Marley's home country, where it has long been used as a medicinal herb by families, including as a cold remedy, and as a spiritual sacrament by Rastafarians.

shops," has started to pull back, calling on cities to close shops near schools and ban sales to tourists.

There is, however, an effort afoot to legitimize the growing of cannabis sold in the coffee shops. While it's been legal to sell pot, it's not to grow it, so shops must turn to the black market for their supply, which may wind up seized in a raid. In Latin America and the Caribbean, where some countries have decrimi-



In this photo, farmer nicknamed Breezy shows his illegal patch of budding marijuana plants during a tour of his land in Jamaica's central mountain town of Nine Mile. Breezy says Americans, Germans and increasingly Russian tourists have toured his small farm and sampled his crop. (AP Photo/David McFadden)

operations, which have largely been cash-only because federal law forbids financial institutions from processing pot-related transactions.

Such actions underscore how the official U.S. position has changed in recent years. In 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it wouldn't target medical marijuana patients. In August, the agency said it wouldn't interfere with the laws in Colorado and Washington, which regulate the growth and sale of taxed pot for recreational use.

Government officials and activists worldwide have taken note of the more open stance. Also not lost

has previously doused reform efforts in Jamaica, including a 2001 attempt to approve private use of marijuana by adults. Given America's evolution, "the discussion has changed," said Delano Seiveright, director of Ganja Law Reform Coalition-Jamaica. Last summer eight lawmakers, evenly split between the ruling People's National Party and the opposition Jamaica Labor Party, met with Nadelmann and local cannabis crusaders at a luxury hotel in Kingston's financial district and discussed next steps, including a near-term effort to decriminalize pot possession.

Officials are concerned

Influential politicians are increasingly taking up the idea of loosening pot restrictions. Jamaica's health minister recently said he was "fully on board" with medical marijuana.

"The cooperation on this issue far outweighs what I've seen before," Seiveright said. "Both sides are in agreement with the need to move forward."

While some European countries, including Spain, Belgium and the Czech Republic, have taken steps over the years to liberalize pot laws in the face of international treaties that limit drug production to medical and research purposes, the Netherlands, famous for its pot "coffee

shops," has started to pull back, calling on cities to close shops near schools and ban sales to tourists. There is, however, an effort afoot to legitimize the growing of cannabis sold in the coffee shops. While it's been legal to sell pot, it's not to grow it, so shops must turn to the black market for their supply, which may wind up seized in a raid. In Latin America and the Caribbean, where some countries have decrimi-

nalized possession of small amounts of drugs, from cocaine to marijuana, there is significant public opposition to further legalization. But top officials are realizing that it is nevertheless on the table, despite the longstanding efforts of the U.S., which has provided billions of dollars to support counter-narcotics work in the hemisphere. Current or former presidents in Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil have called for a re-evaluation of or end to the drug war, a chorus echoed by Argentina's drug czar, Juan Carlos Molina, a Roman Catholic priest who has long served in the nation's drug-wasted slums. □



Special Visitors Honored at The Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently, the following guests were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba: Lawrence & Ellen Livernois, Herbert & Evelyn Vaughn, Bruno & Louise Talotta, and Patsy & Barbara Tiriolo.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to

guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Marriott Surf Club.

Mrs. Louise commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Top reasons for returning provided by

the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, Friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food.

In the pictures, Mr. Croes from ATA together with Honorees and hotel Rep. Jenny Boekhoudt at the Marriott Surf Club. □



Aruba, racing and music collide as group of 35 heads to Aruba

ORANJESTAD/UNION, S.C. - There's no doubt that Team Aruba has made a name for their 'One Happy Island' among drag racing fans. Many racers, officials and fans have made Aruba their vacation spot, including famous names like Harold Martin. Now, a group of 35 folks from Union, S.C. are planning a trip of their own. And while they are sure to enjoy the beauties of the island paradise, their motive for venturing south is quite unique. Bobby Hicks manages U.S. operations for Team Aruba and is spearheading the group's trip. A man of strong faith, Hicks says the group is heading to Aruba for a Christian mission trip. The majority of the missionaries are musicians and they'll surely find it easy to sing songs of gratitude while on the island paradise. This group trip is further evidence to the fact that Team Aruba is making their nation famous in the racing industry and beyond. While the team puts in many long hours of hard work during the racing season, it is during the off season that their work pays off as vacation-

ers heed the lure of Team Aruba's homeland. William Cavallo is one such visitor who has now decided to make Aruba a regular vacation spot:

"I have had the luxury of vacationing all over for free, due to trips we win. In my type of business [office equipment sales] we are compensated with free travel. I would have never picked Aruba without talking to the Eman family. As it turned out, we decided to go. We loved it so much we went back with my entire family a second time. The interesting part is for the first time in a few decades I had to pay for this trip. It was worth every penny and we are already planning our next trip back. If you want to know what we liked the most about Aruba, it is simple: the people. They were the nicest we have ever met. Can't wait to go back!"

Friends of a former Team Aruba crew member have visited three times and by their word of mouth have brought many others to Aruba. Others who have enjoyed an Aruba vaca-

tion at the bidding of the Emans and Team Aruba include: World Champion racer Cary Goforth and Greg Brown, an Engine Builder at Jon Kaase Racing Engines, as well as fellow racer John Pluchino, whose entire team visited the island. Pluchino crew member Bill Madden loved the island paradise so much he bought timeshare in Aruba. "Team Aruba is a very special group of people who treat fans and fellow racers like close friends," told Pluchino. "From the first time my team met the Emans we became close friends, and they opened their entire racing operation to us, as they have with so many other teams. They promote the island of Aruba and are always ready to help get the best possible rates and fares for anyone that would like to travel to the beautiful island for a vacation. I know of so many people including my own family that have taken the advice of the Emans and have traveled to the island. All have enjoyed it immensely. Some have purchased timeshares and others have



already booked a second and third trip to the island. My family and I are returning to the island the second week of April for another visit." "When my wife and I first met Trevor Eman and Team Aruba we noticed immediately how friendly and upbeat they were," World Champion, John Montecalvo testified of the Arubans. "No matter if they won or lost they smiled and were just so grateful to be racing with us. You could always count on seeing lots of people surrounding the Team Aruba pit area, as Trevor and his crew were always mingling with the fans. They play fun music and give away bags filled with items that promote tourism for the Island of Aruba, as well as Autism awareness. It would make us smile to see the large palm trees in front of their trailer, even when it was cold outside!

"In 2012 my wife and I decided to plan a trip to Aruba for our fall vacation. This decision was pretty easy as the graphics on the Team Aruba trailer were very inviting, and whenever we asked Trevor what the weather was he always said, 'It is perfect'. We were told it was called the 'One Happy Island' and Team Aruba certainly exuded that so we decided to give it a try. Trevor gave me the name of a travel agent that took care of all the details, and we only needed to wait for the date. Turned out we loved Aruba and all that it had to offer. Team Aruba was very influential to get us to visit Aruba, but the Island of Aruba convinced us to return a year later!" Pro Stock racer, Bob Bertsch had similar feelings on his trip to the one happy island: "Our visit there was very enjoyable for the fam-

ily. The water and weather were absolutely fantastic and the beaches were not crowded. The Saturday night that I spent at the drag strip was very interesting as all of the competitors knew one another, and they were like family."

Now, because of Team Aruba and crew member Bobby Hicks, a group of gospel singers will be making a trip to Aruba later this year. Five people from this group made a trip in October and now 30 others have decided to join them for a second trip back. The Riverside Boys and Carolina Christmas Band, as the entertainers are known, plan to work with a pastor in Aruba to put on a Vacation Bible School as well as entertain through their gospel performance.

Like many others, the Aruba Tourism Authority is taking notice of Team Aruba's efforts. "We are all huge fans of Team Aruba, and love watching them spread the sunshine and cheer of the One Happy Island throughout the U.S.," told Sjeidy Feliciano, Senior PR and Corporate Communications Specialist for the Aruba Tourism Authority. "The last few years have seen tremendous growth in engagement of the 'generations of the future,' as we continue to maintain our notoriety among loyal visitors. With ambassadors like these guys, it's no wonder the secret of our perfect island getaway has gotten out!"

While Aruba's efforts on the track are receiving more and more recognition after their stellar 2013 performance, they are best at accomplishing what they originally set out to do: attract people to their island paradise home. □

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served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start.

Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing.

A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's daily Happy Hour from 5 till 6 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! ☐



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2 medals, strong emotions for Miller, Weibrecht

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia (AP) — This medal mattered to Bode Miller.

Not so much because, at 36, his bronze in Sunday's super-G — behind winner Kjetil Jansrud and surprise runner-up Andrew Weibrecht — makes Miller the oldest Alpine medalist in Olympic history. Or even because he now owns six medals in all, the second-highest total for a male ski racer and tied for second among U.S. Winter Olympians in any sport.

The guy who for years and years insisted results don't mean much to him declared he actually did care about this one. The last year has been a difficult one for Miller: the death of his younger brother, Chelone, in April 2013; the court fight over custody of his infant son; the work it took to come back from left knee surgery and return to the Alpine apex.

"It's almost therapeutic for me to be in these situations, where I really had to test myself, so I was happy to have it be on the right side of the hundredths," said Miller, who grew up in New Hampshire and is now based in California. "Some days ... medals don't matter, and today was one of the ones where it does."

He wiped away tears in the

BRONZE AGE



Men's super-G joint bronze medal winner Bode Miller of the United States looks at the gold medal podium during a flower ceremony at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Associated Press

finish area after someone mentioned Chelone, a charismatic snowboarder who was 29 and hoping to make the U.S. team in Sochi when he died of what was believed to be a seizure.

"Everything felt pretty raw and pretty connected," Miller said, "so it was a lot for me."

Weibrecht couldn't help but be moved by his own journey, calling Sunday "probably the most emotional day of ski racing that I've ever had."

It also was an important day for the U.S. ski team. The Americans had managed to collect only one of the 15 medals awarded through the first five Alpine events of the Sochi Olympics before Weibrecht and Miller tripled their nation's total in one fell swoop.

Through 28 starters Sunday, Miller and Jan Hudec of Canada were tied for second place, about a half-second slower than Jansrud's run of 1 minute, 18.14 seconds. But then came the 29th racer, Weibrecht, who had come out of nowhere to win the super-G bronze behind Miller's silver at the 2010 Olympics but since then has dealt with injury after injury, including to both shoulders and both ankles.

Continued on Page 21



PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — When U.S. Speedskating hooked

U.S. speed skater Joey Mantia, right, holds his head after the men's 1500-meter race at the Adler Arena Skating Center at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

U.S. Speedskating gambles on new suit, loses big

up with Under Armour to develop a new high-tech skinsuit that would revolutionize the sport at the Winter Olympics, the vision was gold, silver and bronze. The result was a total debacle. Right in the middle of the Sochi Games, the American skaters hastily switched back to the suits they wore during the World

Cup season and at the country's Olympic trials in late December.

Not that it mattered.

Saturday was another bust for the U.S. at the speedskating oval. Brian Hansen finished seventh in the 1,500 meters — matching the team's best showing through seven events in Russia — and two-time silver

medalist Shani Davis faded to 11th in what might've been the final individual race of an otherwise brilliant Olympic career.

"Maybe we would see different results if we could turn back the hands of time," Davis said, "but we can't."

Continued on Page 22

Watson ends a 2-year winless drought at Riviera

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bubba Watson went the final 39 holes at Riviera without a bogey and delivered the best closing round at Riviera in some three decades Sunday to win the Northern Trust Open.

It was his first victory in 22 months and 41 tournaments worldwide dating to the 2012 Masters.

Watson wound up with a two-shot victory over Dustin Johnson, who closed with a 66 for the second straight week and got the same result.

This wasn't Bubba golf as much as it was simply great golf.

Watson, who also shot 64 on Saturday to start the final round four shots behind William McGirt, made up ground so quickly that he broke out of a four-way tie for the lead with a birdie on the eighth hole and made the turn in 30.

Equally critical were a pair of par saves with 7-foot putts on the 12th and 13th holes.

Johnson, who was second at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am last week after a final-round 66, made birdie on the 15th hole to get within one shot. He didn't give himself good birdie chances on the last three holes.

Watson made a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th to cap off the best closing round in this tournament since Doug Tewell shot a 63 in 1986. Even sweeter was going up the steps toward the famous clubhouse to see his 2-year-old son, Caleb, whom Watson adopted just before his Masters victory.

Watson finished at 15-under 269, and he wasn't the only big winner.

Jason Allred, who went to college up the coast at Pepperdine, played bogey-free for a 68 and tied for third with Brian Harman, who also had a 68. Allred was a Monday qualifier, and this was his first regular PGA Tour event since he last had his card in 2008.

The tie for third was a career-best for the 33-year-old

Allred. He earned \$388,600, which is more than he had made in his entire career, which included two full seasons on the PGA Tour. He now is exempt into the Honda Classic, which starts in two weeks — about the time his wife is due with their third child.

"We'll have fun figuring out what that looks like," Allred said.

Watson won for the fifth time in his career, and he had to earn it. With no margin for error over the closing holes, he managed to get out of a deep fairway bunker on the 15th hole to the front edge of the green. He smartly played to the middle of the green on the par-3 16th hole for a par. Facing the uphill tee shot on the 18th, he blasted his drive down the middle of the fairway and hit wedge into 15 feet to the right of the pin.

And when it was over, he felt a lot better than he did two weeks ago in Phoenix, where he missed a short par putt on the last hole to lose by one to Kevin Stadler.

Johnson, meanwhile, now has finished among the top six in all four tournaments this season — including a win in Shanghai and consecutive runner-up finishes. His other start was at Kapalua, where he tied for sixth.

McGirt, who had a two-shot lead to start the final round as he tried to win for the first time, opened with a birdie and stalled after that. And on yet another gorgeous day at Riviera, this was not a day to stall. The pack behind took aim and made birdies, particularly Watson.

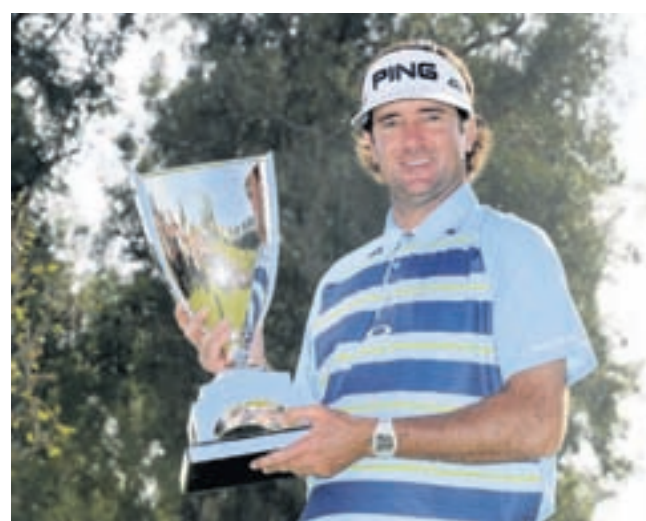
Watson hit a perfect tee shot on the par-3 fourth that rode the slope to 15 feet for birdie. He holed a bunker shot from left of the sixth green for birdie. And a 15-footer on the eighth gave Watson his fifth birdie of the round, and the outright lead.

That allowed him to break out of a four-way tie among McGirt, Schwartzel and Harman, who made three straight birdies in the middle of the front nine.

So many others were positioned just one shot behind, including Johnson, Jordan Spieth and Allred.

The tournament was decided by birdies — and not making bogeys.

The pivotal stretch came on the back nine. The 12th through the 16th were the five toughest holes at Riviera in the final round. Johnson got through them in 1 under, despite hitting only one green. Watson made a pair of 7-foot par saves on the 12th and 13th holes, and he made a 4-foot par putt on the 14th. □



Bubba Watson holds the winner's trophy after victory in the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014. Associated Press

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Athletes from the Netherlands, from left to right, silver medalist Ireen Wust, Gold medalist Jorien ter Mors and bronze medalist Lotte van Beek celebrate during the flower ceremony for the women's 1,500-meter speedskating race at the Adler Arena Skating Center during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014.

Associated Press

Olympic Roundup

Russia forced into must-win hockey game

DAVID PACE

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Russia is having a tough time winning on the Olympic ice, and the Netherlands can't seem to lose.

The Russians were forced into a second straight shootout on Sunday and now must play an extra game to reach the men's hockey quarterfinals. The Dutch speedskaters have fared much better, earning a third sweep of the podium at the Sochi Games.

With hockey-crazed Russian crowds packing the arenas, Canada, Sweden, the United States and Finland advanced to the hockey quarterfinals. They'll be joined by the winners of a four-game qualifying

round next Tuesday among the eight remaining teams. Russia lost its chance to skip the qualifying round when it was forced into a shootout by Slovakia, winning 1-0. That allowed Finland to claim the bye on goal difference. Canada, Sweden and the U.S. all finished the qualifying round undefeated. At the Adler Arena, Dutch skaters swept the podium in the women's 1,500 meters. Overall, the Dutch have won an astounding 16 speedskating medals in Sochi out of 24 awarded so far, smashing the Olympic record of 13 set by East Germany at the 1988 Calgary Games.

Two snowboarders were taken off the slope on stretchers Sunday following crashes during qualifying rounds for the snowboard-cross finals. One suffered a concussion, the other an injured knee. It was the same slope where Russian skicross racer Maria Komissarova fractured a vertebra in her back during a training crash Saturday. She was airlifted to a German hospital Sunday for further treatment.

Elsewhere on Day 10 of the Sochi Olympics, Norwegian skier Kjetil Jansrud earned his country's fourth consecutive Olympic title in men's super-G; Czech snowboarder Eva Samkova won her country's first gold medal of the games; and Sweden took gold in the men's 4x10-kilometer cross-country relay.

ALPINE SKIING: Jansrud continued Norway's dominance in super-G, outracing two Americans and a Canadian for the Scandinavian country's fifth gold in the event in the past seven games. Andrew Weibrecht earned the silver medal, while American teammate Bode Miller and Jan Hudec of Canada tied for bronze. It was Miller's sixth Olympic medal, moving him two behind all-time Alpine leader Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway. At 36, Miller is the oldest Alpine skier to medal.

SNOWBOARDING: Samkova won the women's snowboardcross, the first gold of the games for the Czech Republic. Samkova led from start to finish in all three qualifying and elimination races. Lindsey Jacobellis of the U.S. crashed while leading her semifinal, the third straight disappointing Olympic finish for the eight-time X Games winner. Jacobellis had gold in hand in Turin in 2006 only to fall with a big lead in the final while attempting a fancy grab. She recovered for silver. Four years ago in Vancouver, she washed out early in her semifinal run.

CROSS-COUNTRY: Sweden's win in the 4x10-kilometer relay came one day after the Swedish women had won gold in the same race. No country has won both relays since the old Soviet Union did it 42 years ago. Swedish anchor Marcus Hellner skied alone for the entire fourth leg and grabbed a Swedish flag to wave as he entered the stadium. Russia took silver in front of President Vladimir Putin. France finished third.

SPEEDSKATING: Jorien ter Mors earned the gold in the Dutch sweep of the women's 1,500. Pre-race favorite Ireen Wust settled for silver, with bronze going to Lotte van Beek. If there had been a medal for fourth place, the Dutch would have won that, too, with Marrit Leenstra finishing just after Van Beek. Ter Mors turned in a stunning time of 1 minute, 53.51 seconds, an Olympic record and the second-fastest ever at sea level.

CURLING: Sweden and Canada became the first men's teams to qualify for the semifinals. Norway, Britain and China are battling for the other two spots. The Swedes and Canadians also advanced to the semifinals in the women's tournament. China, Britain, Switzerland and Japan still have a chance for the remaining two semifinal spots. □

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Semifinals up next for U.S., Canada women's hockey

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — U.S. women's hockey coach Katey Stone said she won't bother talking to her players about the time Sweden upset the Americans in the Turin Olympics.

"Some of these kids are too young," she said after an off-day practice for Monday's semifinal matchup against Sweden. "It's totally different now."

The United States and Canada have completely dominated women's hockey since the world championships were first contested in 1990. The North Americans have met in the final at worlds every year — claiming every gold and silver medal — and every Olympics since the sport was added to the Winter Games in 1998.

Except one: when Sweden beat the U.S. in Turin in 2006.

"It was devastating for the United States to see them go down in that game," U.S. captain Meghan Duggan said. "We don't want any repeats of that."

Only one member of the United States team was



Rebecca Johnston of Canada takes a shot at the goal as USA Goalkeeper Jessie Vetter reaches for the puck during the second period of the 2014 Winter Olympics women's ice hockey game at Shayba Arena, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

on the team that won the bronze medal in 2006: Forward Julie Chu, who has played in every Olympics since Salt Lake City. Chu skipped practice on Sunday because of a hand

injury that forced her to leave Saturday's skate. She was unavailable for comment, but Stone said the injury was not serious and Chu was expected to play in the semifinal.

"Everybody that's a four-time Olympian got the day off today," Stone said.

Stone said that Jesse Vetter, who beat Finland but lost to Canada in the round-robin, will be in goal when

the U.S. plays Sweden in the first semifinal. Canada, which swept through the opening round, including a 3-2 victory over the U.S., will take on Switzerland in the late game.

2 medals

Continued from Page 18

He's had four operations in the last four years, lost funding from the U.S. ski team at one point, and was not a lock to make the Sochi Olympic roster.

"I've had to evaluate whether this is really what I want to do. Even," Weibrecht said, then paused before adding, "as recently as yesterday."

He laughed at his own punch line.

"All kidding aside," Weibrecht said later, rubbing his left temple, "it's been a pretty difficult four years. It's kind of one of those things that you can only be beat down so many times before you start to really look at what you're doing. I didn't know how many more beatdowns I could take."

Charging with abandon — his nickname is "War Horse" — Weibrecht dominated

the top of the course, then held on to nudge into second, 0.30 seconds behind Jansrud and 0.23 ahead of both Miller and Hudec, whose bronze is Canada's first Alpine medal in 20 years.

That Weibrecht pulled it off did not shock U.S. coaches or teammate Ted Ligety, the super-G world champion who was 14th. Weibrecht credited a recent day of giant slalom practice in Austria alongside Ligety with helping him carry speed. Being quick has never been a problem for the 5-foot-6 (1.68-meter) Weibrecht, who's 28. Mid-race errors usually set him back. Just last week, Ligety called Weibrecht "the fastest skier in the world for 20 seconds in every single event."

How stunning was this silver? In 95 World Cup races, Weibrecht never finished better than 10th. Yet he owns two Olympic medals.



United States' Andrew Weibrecht approaches a gate in the men's super-G the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Associated Press

"Hits the bull's-eye once every four years," is how Italy's Peter Fill put it. Weibrecht's 2010 bronze hangs in the lobby of his parents' hotel in Lake Placid, host of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Games. In the wee hours of Sunday — there's a 9-hour time difference between New York and Sochi — Weibrecht's

parents followed along at home.

"He had some really bad experiences," Weibrecht's father, Ed, said in a telephone interview. "It's been a struggle for him to come back, but he never wavered from that goal." Understanding where Miller's goals lie can be tricky. He'll talk about the pu-

rity of skiing. He'll say tangible rewards aren't significant, that "skiing 80 percent would get me more medals, but it just doesn't feel right." Here, though, he was bothered by finishing eighth in the downhill, sixth in the super-combined. In the super-G, one error coming out of the final jump cost Miller what he estimated to be about a half-second. Still, he appreciated the accomplishment. "After the year we've had, and the fact we just keep pushing through it," said Miller's wife, Morgan, "it just shows how resilient Bode is." Even if clearly in a reflective mood, Miller couldn't completely turn off his wry side when asked about trailing only the Alpine-record eight medals won by Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, and the U.S.-record eight Winter Olympic medals won by speedskater Apolo Anton Ohno. □

U.S. Speedskating

Continued from Page 18

How did it come to this? The embarrassment of Suitgate can be traced to a process filled with a quest for secrecy but marred by questionable decisions, all of which came back to bite the U.S. program on the sport's biggest stage. Kevin Haley, senior vice president of innovation for Under Armour, laid out a timeline for The Associated Press that began in 2011 with the development of a new suit that was supposed to give the Americans a decided technological edge. The company worked with Lockheed Martin to handle some of the testing, a partnership that added a bit of intrigue to the process. The aerospace and defense giant analyzed the suits using a CGI-like procedure in which sensors are attached to the body, producing what Haley called "an unbelievable amount of data." From there, Under Armour began wind-testing variations of the new suit using six different-sized mannequins. Understandably, the athletes were excited to see what would come of so many bright minds trying to make them a suit that would provide less resistance, enabling them to go faster than ever.

"These people make F-16 jets," skater Patrick Meek said. According to Haley, Under Armour's deal with U.S. Speedskating called for three suits to be delivered to each Olympic skater on Jan. 1, which is where things started to go wrong. Sure, the skaters were involved in the development all through the process: trying on the suit, using it in training, offering suggestions and feedback. But secrecy seemed to be the primary concern, the U.S. fretting that other countries would swipe their technology if the suit came out too soon. The final version was completed about six weeks before the opening ceremony, which meant no one had a chance to compete in it before they arrived in Sochi. That, said Davis, was a huge mistake. "The best thing would have been to make sure that these suits were what the people said they were," he said, "so that we can actually know going into the races instead of finding out in one of the biggest races of our lives." The Americans gambled that any unfamiliarity and kinks in the new suit would be overcome by the star-



Shani Davis of the U.S. skates in the prototype of the official US Speedskating suit during a training session at the Adler Arena Skating Center at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, in Sochi, Russia

Associated Press

ting times it produced. That turned out to be a losing bet. Big time. While Under Armour touted the "Mach 39" as the "fastest speedskating suit in the world" — and the skaters dutifully spouted the party line before the Olympics — there were doubts about the suit all along. Some complained about it being too tight and restricting their breathing. The man who designed the Dutch team's new suits said he had already tried some

elements in the American version and found they didn't produce any noticeable improvement; in fact, he thought one feature, a vent-like tab on the back, might actually slow a skater down. After the first four events in Sochi, it was clear within the U.S. team that something was wrong, even though the Americans weren't necessarily expected to win a medal in any of those races. For the men's 1,000 on Wednesday, one U.S. skat-

er — Haley wouldn't say who — skated in a slightly different version of the new suit, essentially for testing purposes. There was no significant improvement in the time. Davis finished eighth, ending his bid to become the first male speedskater to win the same event three straight times. On Thursday, when Heather Richardson and Brittany Bowe competed in the women's 1,000, an event they had dominated all season, more desperate measures were taken. The vent on the back of Richardson's suit was covered up. Again, there was no significant improvement, as Richardson finished seventh and Bowe eighth. With no competition at the oval on Friday, the Americans decided enough was enough. They received permission from the International Skating Union to go back to the Under Armour suit they used before the Mach 39. It was a huge blow to U.S. Speedskating, maybe even worse for Under Armour after its grand claims. "That's marketing. People wanted to make their product stand out," U.S. coach Matt Kooreman said. "And when you don't live up to that expectation, you get it thrown back at you pretty harshly." The debacle was complete. □

SOCHI SCENE: Too hot for Lolo

The Associated Press
KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia (AP) — Lolo Jones remains on a quest for Olympic gold. For now, she'd settle for cold. Warm weather during the first week have given the Sochi Games more of a summer feel, and Jones, now a U.S. bobsledder after running hurdles in Beijing and London, isn't happy that she's not getting to wear any of her stylish winter gear. "I'm pissed," she said, cracking a smile. "I wanted to wear all my winter clothes and hats and gloves. ... I think Sochi just needs to go ahead and

put their bid in for the Summer Games. Go ahead and do it." Jones and USA-3 driver Jazmine Fenlator completed their last practice runs on Sunday in preparation for two-man bobsled, which begins for the women on Tuesday. They got in their final heats in bright sunshine and temperatures pushing 50 degrees at the Sanki Sliding Center, about an hour's drive into the Caucasus Mountains from Sochi. Following the second run, Jones had a noticeable abrasion above her right eye, a bobsled battle scar. "Jazmine got out and was



Breakman Lolo Jones of the United States prepares for a training session with her teammate Jazmine Fenlator for the women's bobsleigh at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Associated Press

a little frustrated and hit me in the head," Jones joked. "No, she was trying out some stuff so I was trying out some helmets. I'll go with the second one I was wearing today." Jones seems to be enjoying her first winter Olympics experience, minus any snow or sleet or hint that it's actually February and not April. Breakman Lolo Jones of the United States prepares for a training session with her teammate Jazmine Fenlator for the women's bobsleigh at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. □

Nishikori beats Karlovic to defend Memphis title

TERESA M. WALKER

AP Sports Writer

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Kei Nishikori of Japan successfully defended his title at the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships, beating Ivo Karlovic of Croatia 6-4, 7-6 (0) on Sunday.

Nishikori won his fourth career title along with the \$103,100 winner's check and 250 points on the ATP Tour by making this event at The Racquet Club his first successful title defense. He became the first back-to-back winner since Tommy Haas won in 2006 and 2007. Karlovic came in having not been broken even once this week and looking for his sixth career title. The big-serving Karlovic and his 20 aces couldn't counter Nishikori's precision.

Nishikori saved both break points he faced while winning 86 percent on his first serve (38 of 44).

Karlovic had gone 42 games at The Racquet Club without being broken, and Nishikori broke him in the third game of the first set. Karlovic kept going to the net and Nishikori popped a backhand past the Croat into the corner for the advantage after pushing the game to deuce. Then Nishikori broke him with a backhand passing shot for a 2-1 lead.

Nishikori played very efficiently, not losing a point off his serve until the eighth game of the first set when up 30-0.

He fought off two break points before serving up an ace for the advantage, and Karlovic hit a return

long as Nishikori held serve for a 5-3 lead. Karlovic didn't make it easy as Nishikori finally converted on his fourth set point to take the first set in 40 minutes on a Karlovic backhand into the net.

In the second set, Karlovic found himself again having to hold his serve. He faced five break points and double-faulted twice before finally taking advantage of a Nishikori return that went wide before Karlovic won the game with an overhead shot.

Nishikori dominated the tiebreaker from the start, hitting a passing shot past Karlovic for the mini-break. Karlovic hit forehands long on the next two points. Nishikori beat Karlovic with a passing shot off his forehand putting up him 5-0



Kei Nishikori, of Japan, holds the winner's trophy after defeating Ivo Karlovic, of Croatia, 6-4, 7-6 (0) in the singles final at the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in Memphis, Tenn. The trophy is shaped like a guitar.

Associated Press

that he celebrated with a fist pump.

Nishikori finished off the

match with a forehand into the corner before Karlovic hit a return long. □

Lots of trouble for Stewart-Haas Racing at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP)

— Engine troubles during the day, wrecked cars at night. Stewart-Haas Racing found all sorts of trouble at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday.

Tony Stewart, SHR's owner and driver, and teammate Danica Patrick got the miserable day started with blown engines in pole practice for the Daytona 500.

They will have to start at the back of the field in Thursday's qualifying race and in the Feb. 23 Daytona 500.

Things got worse in the Sprint Unlimited exhibition race a few hours later.

Stewart, Patrick, Kevin Harvick and Kurt Busch were involved in a nine-car wreck in the race, knocking out three of the four SHR cars in the event that kicks off the NASCAR season. Harvick was able to return to the track but was well off the pace.

"You hate to have that happen," Stewart said. "That's just part of it. Back at Daytona."

The melee started when



Matt Kenseth (20) slides sideways in front of Joey Logano (22), Tony Stewart (14) and Jeff Gordon (24), starting a multi-car crash in the front stretch during the NASCAR Sprint Unlimited auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014. Denny Hamlin, front, escaped the wreck.

Associated Press

Matt Kenseth turned in front of Joey Logano. Logano's

front bumper turned Kenseth's car sideways, trigger-

ing the multi-car pileup. Patrick tried to weave her

way through the obstacle course of wrecked cars, but her left-side tires got on the infield grass, turning her sideways. And as she tried to straighten out her No. 10 Chevrolet, her boyfriend, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., plowed into her.

"I got hit by my boyfriend. What a bummer," Patrick said. "I was having fun and I felt like I was learning a lot."

It was good to run with those guys. It would have been nice to get it to the end for the experience." SHR has to hope the rest of the week improves from here.

Stewart, Patrick and HScott Motorsports driver Bobby Labonte also had engine failures in practice, creating concern that Hendrick Motorsports might have issues. Stewart, Patrick and Labonte all lease engines from Hendrick, which also fields cars for Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kasey Kahne. Labonte's engine went first. Stewart's started smoking a bit later, followed about 10 minutes later by Patrick's. □

Big Deal: It's Comcast vs. the Cord Cutters!

FARHAD MANJOO

© 2014 New York Times

The typical American household pays about \$90 a month for cable television service, according to the NPD Group, the market research firm. But according to the research firm of You and Pretty Much Everyone You Know, when you click on your TV and browse the guide, what you often find hardly seems worth \$90 a month.

This is the battle hymn of the cord cutter: You are paying too much for television, and you aren't watching most of what you're paying for. Over the last couple of years, millions of Americans have ditched their cable plans in favor of online streaming services like Netflix and iTunes. Perhaps intoxicated by the money they think they're saving, cord cutters tend to be evangelical about their lifestyle, feeding a viral phenomenon that is altering the economics of the cable business.

But can cord cutters truly escape the cord? And are they, in fact, saving much money at all?

Comcast's deal this week to acquire Time Warner

Cable highlights the pickle that cord cutters may soon find themselves in. The acquisition rests on the assumption that as people cut back on their monthly TV plans, the cable lines

coming into their homes won't lose their value. Instead, the more we imbibe of all the glories available on streaming services, the more we'll need to shell out for high-speed broadband

service.

In most American households, the cable cord is the fastest conduit for broadband service. This suggests the canny strategy by which those once-inescapable cable providers might combat the rise of cord cutters: The cable giants will simply become even-more-inescapable Internet giants.

If the big providers can do that, cord cutters' gleeful self-satisfaction may prove short-lived. Critics of the Comcast-Time Warner deal argue that it will eventually give Comcast the power to raise prices for its broadband and cable TV services and especially to hold its Internet-only subscription prices so close to its TV-and-Internet prices that few people will see much use in declaring their cable independence.

"Comcast and the new, giant Comcast are going to do as much as they can to stop you from unbundling," said Craig Aaron, president of Free Press, a consumer advocacy group. "In order for you to get content you like, you're going to be pushed to pay the cable bill, too."

You can get a hint of such a future in Comcast's current price structure. Today, its cheapest Internet service - a plan that a cord-cutting household might select - goes for \$40 a month for the first year. It offers download speeds of up to 25 Mbps, which means it's fast enough to stream two or three videos simultaneously - say, a FaceTime video chat in the teenager's room, an episode of "Scandal" in the living room and "Adult Swim" in the man cave.

Here's the twist: Comcast's cheapest TV-and-Internet plan goes for \$50 a month for the first year, or just \$10 a month more than the cord-cutter's plan. Subscribers to the bundle get the same streaming speed as the Internet-only plan, as well as basic TV service that offers a handful of local channels. Comcast also throws in its service for watching TV shows on your mobile devices. More enticingly, the plan includes access to HBO and its streaming service, HBO Go, which - unlike Netflix and Hulu - isn't available to cord cutters who lack a cable TV subscription.

None of the prices quoted here include taxes and fees for extra equipment. Comcast also notes that prices may vary by location. Considering these caveats, it's likely that your bill for these plans will be higher than the quoted prices. Still, it's instructive to note the very small price difference between the cord-cutting plan and the TV-and-Internet plan. Broadband markets in most other countries generally operate under tighter rules than those in the United States. Nonetheless, the FCC has attributed those high prices to a lack of competition in local broadband markets. Most American households are served by only two high-speed Internet providers, and some have only one or none. Even in markets with two providers - usually a phone company and a cable company - prices tend to rise.□



Comcast's deal this week to acquire Time Warner Cable and their evolving pricing model both highlight the pickle that people ditching their cable TV service may soon find themselves in -- because you still need the cable to get high-speed broadband for your streaming services.

(Minh Uong/The New York Times)

US: Fewer layoffs, but not much hiring

FLOYD NORRIS

© 2014 New York Times

Fewer people in the United States lost their jobs in 2013 than in any previous year this century, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported late last week.

The bureau said its Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey - called JOLTS - indicated that 1.8 million people were laid off or dismissed in December. That brought the total for the year to 19.4 million, 5 percent less than the 20.5 million people the department counted in 2012.

Since the credit crisis ended, fewer and fewer people are being fired, and fewer people are applying for unemployment insurance. But hiring has been slow to pick up.

In addition to those laid off or dismissed, the bureau

said 27.6 million workers quit their jobs, and an additional 4.4 million left for other reasons. That category includes retirements and transfers to a different office of the same company, as well as death and disability.

In a typical year, a large number of American workers change jobs, both voluntarily and otherwise. To some extent, that is based on the nature of certain jobs - many construction jobs, for example, are short term and end when the building is completed - but job changes also represent how fluid the labor market is. Many people leave jobs to seek better ones, opening up positions for others. The credit crisis led not only to a rapid gain in the number of workers being let go, but also to a sharp reduc-

tion in the number of people choosing to leave jobs. For the first time since the government began the survey in 2000, more people were leaving jobs involuntarily than voluntarily.

That is no longer the case, but the labor market has become more constricted after the crisis. Fewer people are being let go, but the number of people leaving jobs of their own accord has been rising very slowly and remains below prerecession levels.

That fact could help explain the difficulties faced by the long-term unemployed. With fewer lower-level jobs opening up as people get better jobs, there are fewer positions they can apply for.

The rate of new claims for unemployment insurance has also declined in recent

years but remains higher than it was before the recession. Not everyone who is fired can claim unemployment insurance, and some who are classified as leaving voluntarily may be eligible to seek benefits.

The fact that fewer people are being fired or laid off, even though unemployment remains high by historical standards, may help explain a change in public attitudes regarding the unemployed. During past downturns, Congress has usually been willing to vote for extended unemployment benefits, with the implicit assumption that most of those who cannot find jobs are unfortunate victims of a poor economy. That attitude presumably was reinforced for people who saw their friends and neighbors forced out of jobs.□

Kickstarter says that hackers got customer data

The Associated Press

Online fundraising site Kickstarter says hackers got some of its customer data. Kickstarter co-founder Yancey Strickler said in a blog post that hackers accessed usernames, email addresses, phone numbers and passwords. The passwords are encrypted, but the company said it's possible for a hacker to guess a weak or obvious password. It recommended that users change their passwords. Hackers did not get credit card information, said New York-based Kickstarter, but two accounts saw unauthorized transactions. Kickstarter is one of dozens of crowdfunding websites that let people raise money from donors for projects, ranging from a Spike Lee movie to local breweries and charitable causes. The breach was disclosed Saturday on the Kickstarter blog. The company said they learned about it from law enforcement on Wednesday and closed the breach immediately. "We're incredibly sorry that this happened," Strickler wrote. "We set a very high bar for how we serve our community, and this incident is frustrating and upsetting. We have since improved our security procedures and systems in numerous ways. Strickler added that the company is "working closely with law enforcement." Kickstarter was founded five years ago and has collected \$982 million for more than 56,000 projects, according to its website. It says it has collected pledges from more than 5.6 million people. The breach comes after discount retailer Target Corp. said it believes hackers infiltrated the computers of one of its vendors, and installed malicious software in Target's check-out system for its 1,800 U.S. stores. Experts believe the thieves gained access during the busy holiday season to about 40 million credit and debit card numbers.

Your Money:

The About-Face of the 5-Year Return

JEFF SOMMER

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Take the long view. That's standard advice in investing, and it makes sense. After all, if you've salted money away for a serious purpose like retiring or buying a house or paying for a child's education, you really don't want to focus on how the stock market has done today or on what it might do tomorrow. You need a longer perspective. But there's a fundamental problem with this otherwise sound guidance: How long is the long view? And what do you do if the basis of your long-term thinking changes radically from year to year? These aren't just theoretical questions. Because of a quirk in the calendar, such a cognitive shift has happened recently. And it suggests that the long view needs to be much longer than five years. Consider the five-year annualized returns of the stock market, which have undergone an astonishing improvement over the course of just one calendar year, from a net loss in the five years that ended in 2012 to a hefty double-digit annualized gain in the five years that ended in 2013. These five-year numbers often color the thinking of not just ordinary investors but sophisticated strategists as well. Open a year-end report for your 401(k) or IRA, and you may now see the 2013 numbers for your own investments and for comparable benchmarks. Along with more recent returns, those 2013 five-year returns are appearing on financial websites, and in mutual fund reports and brokerage letters. And they are used by consultants for pension funds and other institutional investors in formulating asset-allocation and risk-management strategies. Yet these five-year perspectives are very changeable. At the end of 2012, stocks' five-year record was dismal. Now, it looks fabulous. What's remarkable is that

three of the years in each of those five-year records are exactly the same. "This is an anomaly in market returns that's occurred because of the calendar, and the extreme moves in the market that have taken place since the financial crisis, and it can be very misleading if you don't look

the market hadn't fully recovered from the devastation of 2008 and early 2009. That period was a nightmare for the markets and the economy. In 2008 alone, the S&P 500 dropped 38.5 percent, without dividends. After such losses, many investors came to an understandable conclu-

books, from the standpoint of the five-year return. That tally started near a market low in 2009, and the results of 2013 became part of the record, too. And 2013 was spectacular, with a gain of 29.6 percent for the S&P 500 without dividends, and 32.4 percent when you include them.

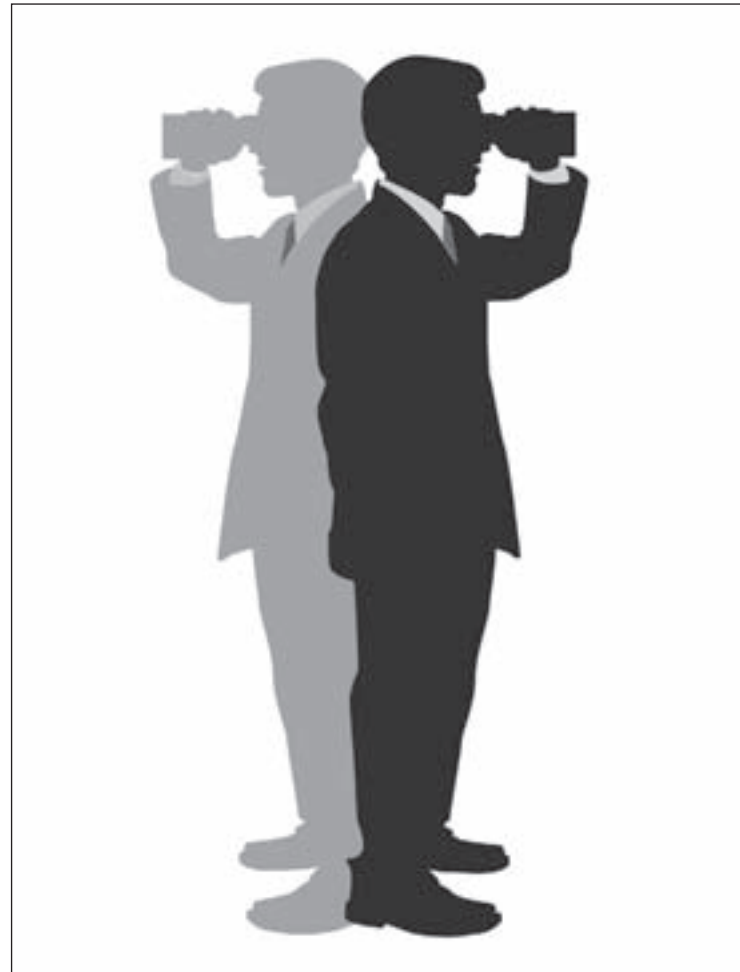
In short, the five-year view in 2012 and 2013 produced two very different narratives. The view backward at the end of 2012 was a cautionary tale about the risks of stock investing. The five-year view just one year later was all about the rewards of risk-taking. Which one should you rely upon for guidance? Neither is enough if you're trying to be a long-term investor.

A much longer time period seems in order. For example, the stock market has tended to outperform the bond market in the past. (That's probably because investors demand a premium for the greater risk involved in stock investing, according to prevailing theory.) This has been true, on average, for many decades - but it wasn't true during the financial crisis. In order to count on a long-term trend like this, you may need to stay in the markets for 20 years or more - maybe for a lifetime, or even several lifetimes. That may not be easy to accept.

James W. Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management, happened to drop by last week from Minneapolis, and we discussed some of these issues.

"The sad truth," he said, "is that over shorter periods, there's really no certainty that the market will behave the way it has in the past, which is why you need to stay very broadly diversified in your investments and why most people need to go for the really, really long term."

Five-year returns may tell you what worked in the past, but the conclusions to be drawn from that may be counterintuitive. □



A huge change in a popular market gauge suggests that investors' long-term view should be much longer.

(Minh Uong/The New York Times)

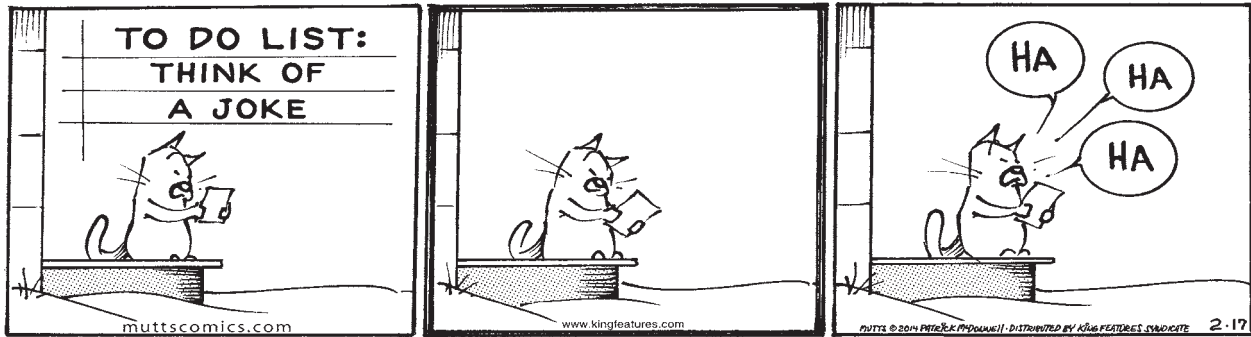
at it carefully," said David Kelley, chief global strategist at J.P. Morgan Funds. Before considering what it might mean, let's look at how such a big change occurred in the five-year data. The numbers tell the story, if you examine them carefully. At the end of 2012, the annualized five-year return of the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, without dividends, was a negative 0.6 percent. That means that if your portfolio mirrored the index, you lost some of your money (although, to be sure, dividends would have given you a small annualized gain of 1.7 percent). The main reason for these depressing figures was that

sion: that the market was an inhospitable place. And they walked - or ran - away from it.

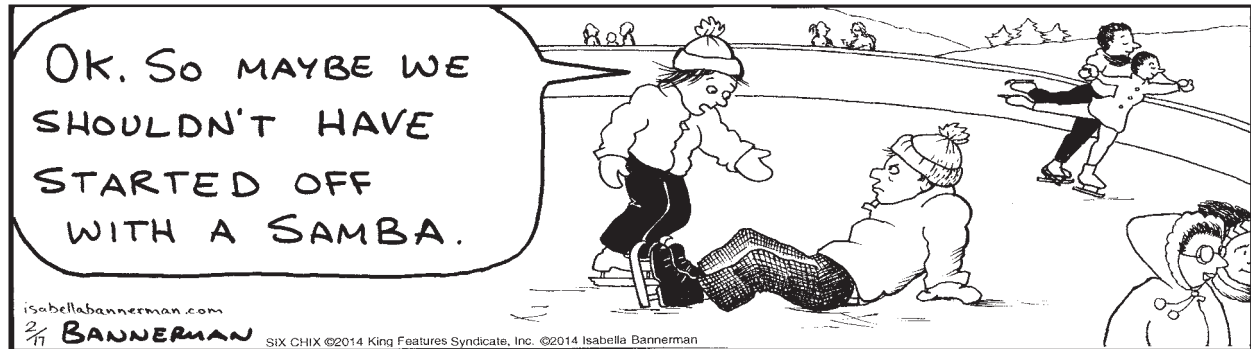
But at the end of 2013, if you relied solely on the five-year trailing numbers, you would have had reason to kick yourself for being out of the stock market. That's because the annualized five-year return had climbed to 15.4 percent without dividends, and 17.9 percent with them.

If you had invested in the index over those five years, you would have more than doubled your money. Why did the five-year return change so much in just one year? First and foremost, on Dec. 31, 2013, the entire ghastly year of 2008 was effectively wiped off the

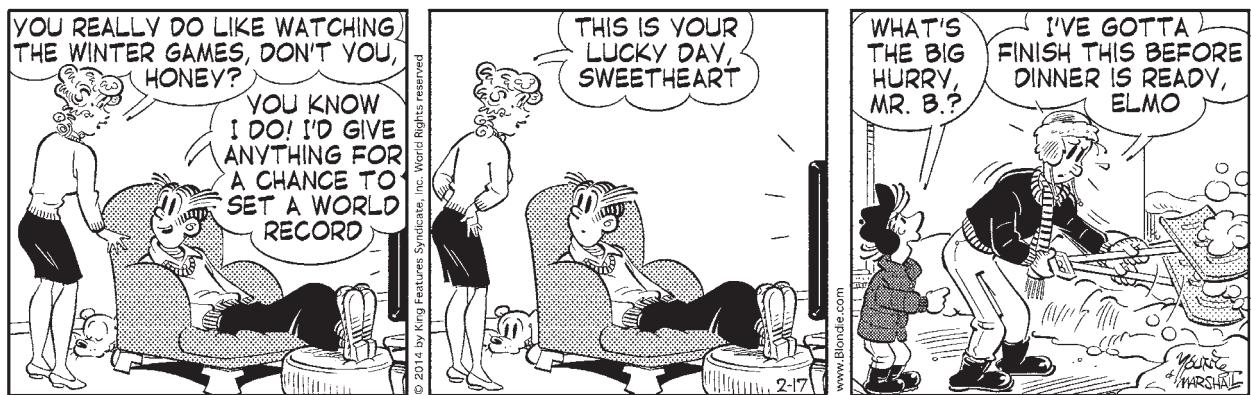
Mutts



6 Chix



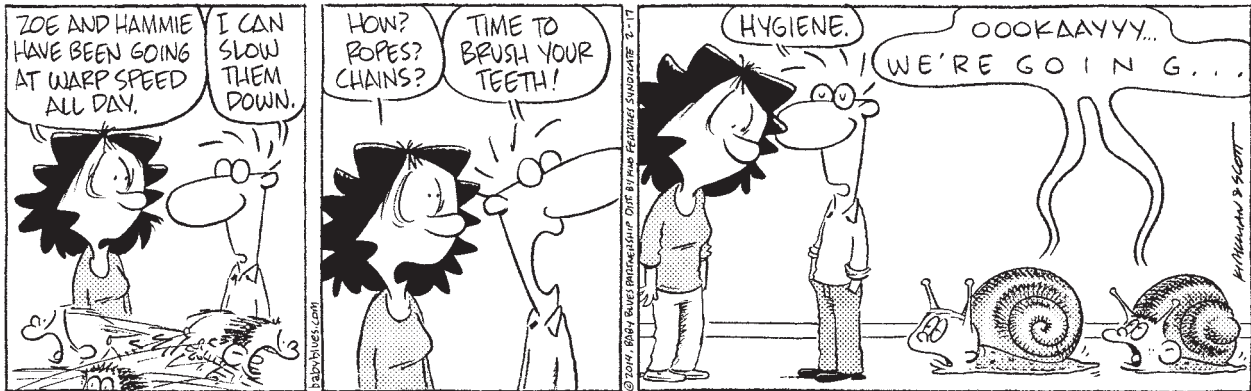
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6			8	9		3
8	5			6	1	2	
				2			1
							3
	2	4		9		1	8
5	8						
2	3			7			
		8	2	3			7
4		1	9				6

Difficulty Level ★

2/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

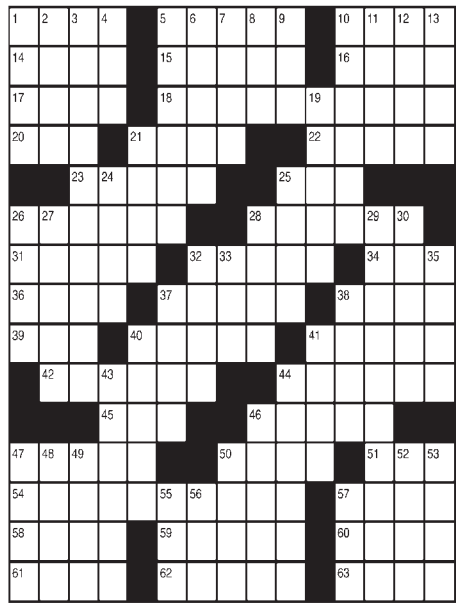
7	6	1	9	4	3	5	2	8
5	2	3	6	7	8	1	9	4
9	4	8	1	2	5	7	6	3
8	3	7	5	1	6	2	4	9
6	9	4	2	3	7	8	1	5
2	1	5	4	8	9	6	3	7
1	8	9	7	6	4	3	5	2
4	7	6	3	5	2	9	8	1
3	5	2	8	9	1	4	7	6

ACROSS

- Hawk or heron
- Swats
- Flip-___; loose rubber sandal
- Drug addict
- Traditional tribal home
- Location of Cedar Rapids
- Kill
- Going in again
- Affirmative
- Boys
- Hose down
- Follows orders
- Knotts or Ho
- Actor James ___
- Boarder
- "All ___ lead to Rome"
- Check recipient
- Hang limply
- Diminishes
- Insulting remarks
- Mixer speed
- Feel sick
- Actor's spot
- Berate
- Make tidy
- Lame, as an excuse
- Water barrier
- Prince Harry's late mum
- Kareem ___ Jabbar
- Orchestra
- Tit for ___
- Century 21 agent's business
- Staple in an Asian diet
- Isn't able to
- Large sea duck with soft down
- Residence
- Colors
- Impoverished
- Dollar bills

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/17/14



Saturday's Puzzle Solved

AGOG	ABDUL	SLEW
COOL	LLAMA	TAXI
MAZE	LUMPS	AVID
ELEANOR	ISOLATE	
	SOY PRONE	
APRON	TIRE	ISAAC
MOON	OLE	POTTER
AIM	SWEETEN	IRA
SNEAKS	NOG	CLIP
STOLE	FEW	PATES
	BIPED	CUB
ARSENAL	LUNATIC	
BEAR	NICER	RENO
LINT	GNATS	EATS
ENDS	SENSE	TROT

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2/17/14

- Use a towel
- Goes off course
- City in England
- Mimics
- Pigsty
- ___ up; arrange
- Axing, as an employee
- Cut of pork
- Possesses
- Leaf of a book
- Wear away
- Not as much
- Cots and cribs
- "That ___ it!"; cry of disgust
- Zone
- Batman's sidekick
- Harp of old
- Reasoned-out guess about a price
- Sudden attacks
- ___ ahead; be
- foresightful
- Summer month: abbr.
- Writer Zane ___
- Flower stalk
- Part of the leg
- No longer fresh
- ___ in; wearing
- Grown-ups
- Elegant clothes
- Went out with
- Part of the foot
- Boyfriend
- Copenhagener
- Commanded
- High point
- Pegs for Els
- Boxer or
- McCain: abbr.
- Even score
- Fraternity letter

Winter's

Continued from Page 8

It is not yet clear how much of the poor showing in recent data is the result of bad weather, and how much the bad weather may simply be masking softer demand. On the one hand, said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Economics, weather "affects pretty much everyone all the way up the supply chain." On the other hand, he said, "It's completely impossible to disentangle weather effects from everything else." The effects can be tricky

to nail down. In one analysis, economists at Capital Economics, a research firm, noted that through a series of complex chain reactions, a heavy blanket of snow might drive gold prices up and wheat prices down. Speaking to Congress this week, Janet L. Yellen, chairwoman of the Federal Reserve, said weather might have been a factor in the weak jobs reports in December and January, but warned the public not to jump to conclusions. In a report this week, retail sales made a poor showing as well, decreasing 0.4 percent last month from December, and spending in December was revised downward to make the 2013 holiday shopping season the weakest since 2009. Manufacturing also declined in January, despite a large jump in output from utilities because of the cold, with many economists concluding that the weather was not causing the retreat but making it look worse. □

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Great Lakes become nearly covered with ice

JOHN FLESHER

AP Environmental Writer
CHEBOYGAN, Michigan
(AP) —

From the bridge of the Coast Guard cutter Mackinaw, northern Lake Huron looks like a vast, snow-covered field dotted with ice slabs as big as boulders — a battleground for the icebreaker's 58-member crew during one of the roughest winters in memory.

It's been so bitterly cold for so long in the Upper Midwest that the Great Lakes are almost completely covered with ice. The last time they came this close was in 1994, when 94 percent of the lakes' surface was frozen.

As of Friday, ice cover extended across 88 percent, according to the U.S. government's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor.

Sections of the lakes, which hold nearly one-fifth of the freshwater on the world's surface, harden almost every winter.

That freezing keeps the Coast Guard's fleet of nine icebreakers busy clearing paths for vessels hauling essential cargo such as heat-



In this Feb. 6, 2014 aerial photo is the ice covered St. Clair River with the Canadian shoreline on the left. This winter has been so bitterly cold for so long that the sprawling Great Lakes, which hold nearly one-fifth of the surface fresh water in the world, may freeze over for the first time in two decades.

ing oil, salt and coal.

But over the past four decades, the average ice cover has receded 70 percent, scientists say, probably in part because of climate change.

Still, as this season shows, short-term weather patterns can trump multi-year trends. Winter arrived early and with a vengeance and refuses to loosen its grip.

"That arctic vortex came down, and the ice just kept going," said George Leshkevich, a physical scientist with the federal lab.

The deep freeze is more than a novelty. By limiting evaporation, it may help replenish lake water levels — a process that began last year after a record-breaking slump dating to the late 1990s.

Also getting relief are cities along the lakes that have been pummeled with lake-effect snow, which happens when cold air masses suck up moisture from open waters and dump it over land.

Buffalo, New York, got nearly 43 inches (109 centimeters) of snow in January, but this month just 13 inches (33 centimeters) have

Associated Press

fallen, a decline resulting largely from the freeze-over of Lake Erie even though Lake Ontario has remained largely open, said forecaster Jon Hitchcock of the National Weather Service.

Heavy ice can also protect fish eggs from predators, and it has delighted photographers, ice anglers and daredevil snowmobilers.

At Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin, the rock-solid cover has allowed around 35,000 visitors to trudge miles (kilometers) over Lake Superior to explore caves featuring dazzling ice formations. It's the first time in five years the lake surface has been firm enough to allow passage.

With no letup in the cold, the ice hasn't experienced the usual thaw-and-freeze cycle, so nature's artistry is even more delicate and beautiful, with needle-like hoarfrost crystals sprinkled across sheets that dangle from cave ceilings like giant chandeliers. "Seeing them like this is almost a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Superintendent Bob Krumenaker said. □

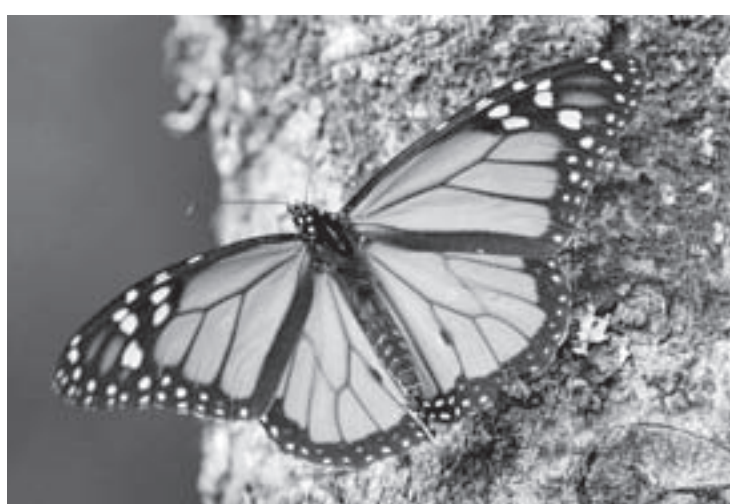
Writers ask for monarch butterflies' protection

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Dozens of scientists, artists, writers and environmentalists on Friday urged the leaders of Mexico, Canada and the United States to devote part of their meeting next week to discussing ways to protect the monarch butterfly.

A letter to the three leaders signed by more than 150 intellectuals, including Nobel literature laureate Orhan Pamuk, U.S. environmentalist Robert Kennedy

Jr. and Canadian author Margaret Atwood, notes the monarch population has dropped to the lowest level since record-keeping began in 1993.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, U.S. President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper are meeting in Toluca, near Mexico City, on Wednesday to discuss such matters as economic competitiveness, trade and investment, en-



In this Dec. 9, 2011, file photo a monarch butterfly sits on a tree trunk at the Sierra Chincua Sanctuary in the mountains of Mexico's Michoacan state.

Associated Press

trepreneurship and security.

The monarch's spectacular annual migration to spend the winter in Mexico is little understood. Experts blame the drop in numbers on several things: extreme weather trends, a dramatic

reduction of the butterflies' habitat in Mexico from illegal logging, and genetically modified crops in the U.S. displacing milkweed, which the species feeds on.

The petition, put together by Mexican writer and en-

vironmentalist Homero Aridjis, says Mexico is addressing the logging problem and calls on the U.S. and Canada to deal with the impact of their agricultural policies.

After steep and steady declines in the previous three years, the black-and-orange butterflies now cover only 1.65 acres (0.67 hectares) in the pine and fir forests west of Mexico City, according to a report last month by the World Wildlife Fund, Mexico's Environment Department and the Natural Protected Areas Commission. Monarchs covered more than 44.5 acres (18 hectares) at their recorded peak in 1996.

Because the butterflies clump together by the thousands in trees, they are counted by the area they cover. □

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U.S. exhibit traces history of female comic artists

KEVIN BEGOS

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — It took a war to let America's female comic book artists break character.

A new exhibit at Pittsburgh's Toonseum is celebrating the history of female comic artists, including those who began laying the groundwork 100 years ago and the female artists of the 1940s, when World War II sent many male artists overseas. "Wonder Women, On Page and Off" includes originals by Nell Brinkley, who created masterful, wispy drawings of curly-haired working girls starting in about 1907. But Joe Wos, director of the Toonseum, notes that even the successful female artists faced a type of glass ceiling at first.

Some were able to break in to the competitive industry, but the characters and stories were mostly related to fashion and women's experiences.

"Men's comics, they could write about whatever they wanted. They could write about being a little girl, about being an iguana, or a Viking," Wos said.

That started to change at the beginning of World War II, when men went off to fight and women filled the void at home, in comics and in other industries, Wos said.

The exhibit features original panels from Jill Elgin's "Girl Commandos," a 1940s series that chronicled the adventures of four young women who fight against the Axis powers.

"You begin to see women in the heroic roles," Wos noted. But after the war ended, women had to struggle to gain acceptance again.

Pittsburgh resident Cindy Washington visited the exhibit Friday and said she was struck by how female artists had drawn such powerful female characters in the 1940s.

These characters weren't "just waiting for someone to come and help — they were very active" in taking control of situations, Washington said.

The show features a satirical 1949 letter from Hilda Terry, the creator of the comic strip "Teena," to the National Cartoonists Society, which didn't admit women at the time.

Terry suggested that the group change its name to the National Men's Cartoonists Society, setting off a passionate debate. Her letter reads, in part:

"Gentlemen: While we are, individually, in complete sympathy with your wish to convene unhampered by the presence of women, and while we would, individually, like to continue, as far as we are concerned, the indulgence of your masculine whim, we find that the cost of your stag privilege is stagnation for us, professionally."

The next year, the bylaws were changed, and Terry became one of the first female members.

The exhibit was created from the collection of Trina Robbins, a writer, artist, and author of "Pretty in Ink," a history of female comic artists. Robbins said by phone from her home in California that despite the breakthroughs of the 1940s, as time went on, more and more comic books began to be dominated by male superheroes, who she found to be a "total bore." By the end of the 1960s, the few remaining mainstream comic strips involving romance and teenage girls were dying off, and women looked for other ways to express themselves.

But instead of fading away, a new generation took matters into their own hands. "You have this rise of, 'If we can't find someone to print our work, we'll do it ourselves,'" Wos said.

The underground comic movement that began in the 1960s led to female artists openly addressing sexuality and discrimination and helped lay the groundwork for graphic novels, which are flourishing today.

"So that's the hope of the future, really," Robbins said, of new storytelling forms.

The exhibit runs until March 30. □



In this photo made on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, a display of books about women cartoonists and female characters in cartoons is part of an exhibit at the Toonseum in Pittsburgh that documents female comic artists over the last 70 years.

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'12 Years a Slave' named best film at UK awards

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The force of "Gravity" was strong at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday — but it was unflinching drama "12 Years a Slave" that took the top prize.

Steve McQueen's visceral, violent story of a free black man kidnapped into servitude in the 19th-century U.S. South was named best picture. Its star, Chiwetel Ejiofor, took the male acting trophy.

Ejiofor thanked McQueen, a visual artist who turned to filmmaking with "Hunger" and "Shame," for bringing the story to the screen.

Holding the trophy, the British actor told McQueen: "This is yours. I'm going to keep it — that's the kind of guy I am — but it's yours." McQueen reminded the ceremony's black-tie audience that, in some parts of the world, slavery is not a thing of the past.

"There are 21 million people in slavery as we sit here," he said. "I just hope 150 years from now our ambivalence will not allow another filmmaker to make this film."

Lost-in-space thriller "Gravity" — made in Britain by



Chiwetel Ejiofor winner of best actor poses for photographers in the winners room at the EE British Academy Film Awards held at the Royal Opera House on Sunday Feb. 16, 2014, in London.

Associated Press

a Mexican director and starring American actors — won six prizes, including best director, for Alfonso Cuarón.

The 3-D special effects extravaganza also won the awards for sound, music, cinematography and visual effects, and despite its mixed parentage was named best British film.

Cuarón paid tribute to star Sandra Bullock, who is alone onscreen for much of the film.

"Without her performance, everything would have been nonsense," he said.

Con-artist caper "American Hustle" charmed its way to three prizes, including original screenplay and supporting actress for Jennifer Lawrence. Its spectacular 70s stylings took the hair and makeup award.

The best-actress prize went to Cate Blanchett for her turn as a socialite on the slide in "Blue Jasmine." She dedicated the award to her friend and fellow actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, who died this month, calling him "a monumental presence who is now sadly an absence."

The supporting actor prize went to Barkhad Abdi, who made an explosive screen debut as a Somali pirate in "Captain Phillips."

The 28-year-old called his experience of going from obscurity in Minnesota to stardom — complete with an Oscar nomination — "surreal." Praising the other Somali actors who played his fellow pirates, he said: "We came from nothing and we got this."

In the past few years, the British prizes, known as BAFTAs, have helped underdog films, including "Slumdog Millionaire," "The King's Speech" and "The Artist," gain Oscars momentum.

The awards have become an essential stop for many Hollywood stars before the Academy Awards, held this year on March 2.

The temperature in London was hardly Hollywood, but Britain's fickle weather relented ahead of Sunday's ceremony. The sun shone as nominees including "Wolf of Wall Street" star Leonardo DiCaprio and "12 Years a Slave" performer Lupita Nyong'o — striking in a green Dior gown — walked the red carpet out-

side London's Royal Opera House.

Best-actress nominee Amy Adams wore a black dress by Victoria Beckham, and revealed the inspirations for her "American Hustle" character's faux-British accent: "Marianne Faithfull and Julie Christie."

There was royalty of the Hollywood kind — Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, wearing matching tuxedos. And there was British royalty, too, in the form of Prince William, honorary president of the film academy.

The documentary prize went to "The Act of Killing," a powerful look at hundreds of thousands of killings carried out in 1960s Indonesia in the name of fighting communism by death squads that went unpunished.

Director Joshua Oppenheimer dedicated the award to his Indonesian co-director and crew, all of whom had to work anonymously because of the threat to their lives in tackling the taboo topic.

Will Poulter ("Son of Rambow," "We're the Millers"), a 21-year-old actor, won the rising star award, decided by public vote. □

'Lego Movie' blocks 'RoboCop,' 'About Last Night'



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows characters, from left, Benny, voiced by Charlie Day, Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, Vitruvius, voiced by Morgan Freeman, Wyldstyle, voiced by Elizabeth Banks and Unikitty, voiced by Alison Brie, in a scene from "The Lego Movie."

Associated Press

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Lego Movie" built a huge lead on top of the weekend's new releases at the box office.

In its second outing, the Warner Bros. animated

film featuring the voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks and Will Arnett earned \$48.8 million to take first place, according to studio estimates Sunday. That brings the film based on the toy brick-building franchise's domestic box office

total to \$129.1 million, cementing it was one of the biggest blockbusters of the year.

"It's crossing over to all audiences," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "It's not just a kids' movie. There's something for boys, girls and adults, as well. The likeability is astronomical. That across-the-board appeal is giving 'The Lego Movie' unstoppable momentum, even in a weekend loaded with new competitors."

"The Lego Movie" earned an additional \$27.7 million from 42 international territories, including the United Kingdom, Holland, Sweden and Norway. The worldwide total box office for "Lego Movie" now stands at \$180.3 million.

Sony's romantic comedy

"About Last Night" starring Kevin Hart and Michael Ealy came in second place with \$27 million. The strong showing further demonstrated Hart's clout as a box-office draw. The actor-comedian's other film, the buddy-cop comedy "Ride Along" with Ice Cube, nabbed \$8.8 million in its fifth weekend to take the sixth spot at the box office. "I don't think there's anyone funnier out there today than Kevin Hart," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "He's at the top, and he couldn't be a nicer or more hardworking guy. He got out there and promoted 'About Last Night' really, really hard. The chemistry that he brings to the table is just infectious. You can't help but wanna take the ride with him."

The action-packed "Ro-

boCop" reboot from Sony and MGM featuring Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman and Michael Keaton captured third place with \$21.5 million.

The update to the original 1987 sci-fi film starring Peter Weller as a robotic officer performed better overseas, earning \$35 million from 37 international markets, including France, Australia and Germany.

The weekend's other new releases, Universal's coming-of-age drama "Endless Love" and the Warner Bros. novel adaptation "Winter's Tale," respectively earned the fifth and seventh spots at the box office. "Endless Love," starring Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde, wooed \$13.4 million, while the Colin Farrell drama "Winter's Tale" made a chilly \$7.8 million. □

Dogged by Data Theft



JOE NOCERA
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"What is stopping us from moving to this kind of technology?" asked a perplexed Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn. It was last Tuesday, and the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which Klobuchar sits, was holding a hearing about the recent breaches of Target and Neiman Marcus in which the data from tens of millions of credit and debit cards were stolen.

The technology Klobuchar had in mind is known as chip-and-PIN. The chip refers to a computer chip embedded in a credit or debit card that encrypts data and authenticates the card. The PIN refers to a personal identification number the customer has to use, which, in effect, authenticates the user. It is no big secret that, from a security standpoint, a chip-and-PIN system is far superior to the magnetic stripe that is the backbone of the credit and debit card systems in the U.S. Criminal gangs in Eastern Europe have learned how to penetrate many computer systems of U.S. retailers and "skim" credit card data at the moment a transaction takes place. That kind of theft would be virtually impossible with a chip-and-PIN system. Nor is it news that much of the rest of the world long ago adopted chip-and-PIN technology; according to MasterCard, 79 percent of terminals in Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean are "chip-enabled," a figure that rises to 95 percent in parts of Europe. But, inexplicably, this clearly superior technology has not yet penetrated the U.S.

Or maybe it's not so inexplicable. The main stumbling block, it would appear, is that retailers and bankers have spent way too much time blaming each other for the growing data theft problem - and not nearly enough time worrying about the people whose data have been stolen. Namely, us.

"Why did the U.S. stick with the mag stripe?" said David Robertson, publisher of The Nilson Report. It may not have been best for consumers, but it was "cheap and efficient" for the banks and retailers. What's more, banks and retailers had a certain amount of fraud built into their business models. Thus, while a hacked card brought big headaches to the customer, it was just another

cost of doing business for the other entities involved in the transaction.

Even as Europe and Canada were moving to a chip-and-PIN system, the U.S. banks held back. Fraud at the point of sale dropped dramatically in countries with chip-and-PIN. Still the U.S. held back. Every time there was a push to adopt chip-and-PIN, both retailers and bankers would do the math and come to the same conclusion: It wasn't worth the trouble.

And when a company did try to adopt it? That's what Target tried to do around 2003 - only to discover that it was largely a waste of money if nobody else went along. In Europe and elsewhere governments had pushed companies to adopt chip-and-PIN. In the U.S., the banks and retailers needed to be able to work together - spending billions both to manufacture new cards and install new terminals that could read the cards.

There are two things that are likely to change the equation. The first is the Target breach, which, one expert told me, could involve as many as 1 in every 10 cards in circulation in the U.S. Many of the cards are debit cards, which means if the card is used by a crook to make a purchase, it comes directly out of the customer's bank account. (Target has vowed to indemnify any customer who has losses as a result of the breach.) The Target breach has shown the reputational hit a company can take when its system is breached. It also has had business consequences: the last two weeks of the Christmas season were lousy ones for Target - and the publicity from the breach is considered a prime culprit.

Second, though, Visa and MasterCard have both set forth timetables that attempt to institute the adoption of embedded-chips technology by the fall of 2015. Although the timetables are not mandatory, they would essentially shift the liability for card losses on to whichever side - the bank or the retailer - has the least secure technology. Although there were various calls for delaying the implementation yet again, those calls stopped once the Target breach took place.

Which is not to say that the banks and the retailers are now seeing eye to eye. When I spoke to a bank lobbyist last week, he told me that the real problem was "a weakness in the internal computer system of large companies that sophisticated criminals have learned to exploit." The retailers, meanwhile, retort that the banks have continually come up with ideas short of chip-and-PIN, none of which ever worked for long before the bad guys figured how to breach them.

The only thing missing from these arguments is the consumer. □



Inequality, Dignity and Freedom



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Now that the Congressional Budget Office has explicitly denied saying that Obamacare destroys jobs, some (though by no means all) Republicans have stopped lying about that issue and turned to a different argument. OK, they concede, any reduction in working hours because of health reform will be a voluntary choice by the workers themselves - but it's still a bad thing because, as Rep. Paul Ryan puts it, they'll lose "the dignity of work."

So let's talk about what that means in 21st-century America. It's all very well to talk in the abstract about the dignity of work, but to suggest that workers can have equal dignity despite huge inequality in pay is just silly. In 2012, the top 40 hedge fund managers and traders were paid a combined \$16.7 billion, equivalent to the wages of 400,000 ordinary workers. Given that kind of disparity, can anyone really believe in the equal dignity of work? In fact, the people who seem least inclined to respect the efforts of ordinary workers are the winners of the wealth lottery. Over the past few months, we've been harangued by a procession of angry billionaires, furious that they're not receiving the deference, the acknowledgment of their superiority, that they believe is their due. For example, last week the investor Sam Zell went on CNN Money to defend the

1 percent against "envy," and he asserted that "the 1 percent work harder. The 1 percent are much bigger factors in all forms of our society." Dignity for all!

And there's another group that doesn't respect workers: Republican politicians. In 2012, Rep. Eric Cantor, the House majority leader, infamously marked Labor Day with a Twitter post celebrating ... people who start their own businesses. Perhaps Cantor was chastened by the backlash to that post; at a recent GOP retreat, he reportedly urged his colleagues to show some respect for Americans who don't own businesses, who work for someone else. The clear implication was that they haven't shown that kind of respect in the past.

On the whole, working Americans are better at appreciating their own worth than either the wealthy or conservative politicians are at showing them even minimal respect. Still, tens of millions of Americans know from experience that hard work isn't enough to provide financial security or a decent education for their children, and many either couldn't get health insurance or were desperately afraid of losing jobs that came with insurance until the Affordable Care Act kicked in last month. In the face of that kind of everyday struggle, talk about the dignity of work rings hollow. So what would give working Americans more dignity in their lives, despite huge income disparities? How about assuring them that the essentials - health care, opportunity for their children, a minimal income - will be there even if their boss fires them or their jobs are shipped overseas? Think about it: Has anything done as much to enhance the dignity of American seniors, to rescue them from the penury and dependence that were once so common among the elderly, as

Social Security and Medicare? Inside the Beltway, fiscal scolds have turned "entitlements" into a bad word, but it's precisely the fact that Americans are entitled to collect Social Security and be covered by Medicare, no questions asked, that makes these programs so empowering and liberating. Conversely, the drive by conservatives to dismantle much of the social safety net, to replace it with minimal programs and private charity, is, in effect, an effort to strip away the dignity of lower-income workers.

And it's something else: an assault on their freedom. Modern American conservatives talk a lot about freedom and deride liberals for advocating a "nanny state." But when it comes to Americans down on their luck, conservatives become insultingly paternalistic, as comfortable congressmen lecture struggling families on the dignity of work. And they also become advocates of highly intrusive government. For example, House Republicans tried to introduce a provision into the farm bill that would have allowed states to mandate drug testing for food stamp recipients. (A commenter on my blog suggested mandatory drug tests for employees of too-big-to-fail financial institutions, which receive large implicit subsidies. Now that would really cause a panic.)

The truth is that if you really care about the dignity and freedom of U.S. workers, you should favor more, not fewer, entitlements, a stronger, not weaker, social safety net. And you should, in particular, support and celebrate health reform. Never mind all those claims that Obamacare is slavery; the reality is that the Affordable Care Act will empower millions of Americans, giving them exactly the kind of dignity and freedom politicians only pretend to love. □

Sochi: The Oddities of an Overpriced Party

DAVID SEGAL
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SOCHI, Russia - Snicker all you like at the well-publicized oddities and spectacular expense of these Winter Games, but give it up for the train that delivers visitors to Olympic Park. A digital sign on the platform at the next-to-last stop says that it will arrive at 1:14 and leave at 1:15, and it delivers on that promise, right down to the second.

amusement park, which, inexplicably, is closed. Yes, closed. A yellow curlicue roller coaster, and a purple U-shaped tummy churner and a bunch of other rides - all of them as still as a parked car. Did someone forget to tell these people it is showtime? Are they taunting us? Is this an elaborate piece of performance art, or maybe raw material for a reality television show called "Watch People Gape in Dis-

says, "Miracles? You expect miracles?" Once you get over the small-change shortage, what strikes you is how surprisingly unexotic Olympic Park looks. Maybe it is because the Olympics are, to some extent, a prefab conceit, and when you build a bunch of winter sports arenas in a self-contained area, a bit of homogeneity is unavoidable. But it goes beyond that. At a women's hockey game,

OK. What else? He looked around, and then shrugged. What is most exotic here might actually be the lines for food, which are hopelessly chaotic and slow, but which are endured by Russians with total equanimity. (They drive everyone else insane.) Or maybe it is the "small rusks" offered in the vending machines, which are jellied-meat-flavored croutons. For when you want jellied

ing a huge oval. At one end of the oval is a stage, for medal ceremonies, live feeds and performances, and at the other is the Olympic flame, burning like a Zippo to the gods. Every Russian here has an iPhone or an iPad - another reason this place feels familiar - and the flame and its huge jet-tail cauldron has become selfie central.

You stand near the flame and look at, say, the Iceberg, the site of the figure skating competitions. It looks like a five-minute walk, tops. It is 15, minimum. The buildings and grounds here are so large they amount to a kind of optical illusion. Objects directly in front of you are much farther away than they appear.

You head to the Ice Cube first, the home of the curling competition. It is probably the smallest of the venues, but it is large enough for four simultaneous matches, which take place on what look like wide, ice-covered bowling lanes. For the uninitiated, the first impression of this Olympic sport is some version of "Wait, this is an Olympic sport?" It looks like a frozen version of bocce, with brooms. Or are those Swiffers? Regardless, there is some furious sweeping going on here.

So you head to Adler Arena, for some speedskating. On the way there, a jowly man in a dark suit stands still and scowls at you. This happens a couple of times a day. The job of these guys, who dress like undertakers, is apparently to give you the stink eye. One assumes they are part of the security detail and have been trained to detect the gaze and manner of a terrorist, but nothing about their bearing invites questions.

Everyone else, particularly the volunteers, is friendly. You get the occasional "Nyet," and a brushoff, when you walk in the wrong door, but most people want to help. A woman at Adler Arena ushers you directly to your seat. For \$51 billion - the reported cost of this insanely ambitious production - Vladimir Putin has put on a show. And for much of the day, and parts of the night, the main plaza is filled and the atmosphere jubilant. There are plenty of foreigners here, and you run into the occasional face-painted American. But they are a minority. Which, under the circumstances, seems fine. This overpriced party was bankrolled by Russians, whether they wanted it not. You are gratified to think that more than a few of them have shown up to enjoy it. □



The closed amusement park near Olympic Park in Sochi, Russia. The Sochi Games are either avidly catering to the West, and the U.S. in particular, or Russia has adopted American sports culture as its own.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

The track, which links Olympic Park to the city of Sochi, about 20 miles away, is said to have cost \$8.7 billion in Russian treasure. That seems a preposterous sum, but you are not Russian, so it is not your treasure. And last Wednesday, the train carried thousands of grinning Olympic goers, delivering them with timing of a precision more associated with the Swiss. The masses strode into a cloudless, 62-degree afternoon, one of those exquisite days that feel like a preamble to summer. When you first lay eyes on Olympic Park, next to the Black Sea, in what is called the coastal cluster, it looks like a Disneyland for corporations. That is because after descending from the train station, down flight after flight of stairs, you see a gantlet of pavilions run by sponsors. What you see next is an

may"? You do not know. So you keep walking, and it is 10 minutes before you lay eyes on the Olympic venues, all of which are on the other side of a pedestrian bridge, divided into lanes, with flooring in shades borrowed from the Olympic rings. Once you reach the other side, a profound realization dawns: Russia is desperately in need of change. Not change in the abstract, drawing-board sense of the word. No, it needs change in the most literal sense. It needs small bills - a lot of small bills. Try to buy a hot dog or pizza at one of the many stands dotted throughout Olympic Park. Time and again, you offer to pay for something that costs 100 rubles - not quite \$3 - with a 500-ruble note and you get a sorrowful, slightly wounded look that

when a goal is scored, the song of choice is that "Woo Hoo" number by Blur. (OK, "Song 2" is the actual title.) During lulls, an old-timey organ plays ditties that will be familiar to anyone who has ever been to a baseball game. There is an oompah band at the speedskating arena, led by four blond women with batons, which performs "When the Saints Go Marching In." At night, a man will beat-box on a stage. This Olympics is either avidly catering to the West, and the United States in particular, or Russia has adopted American sports culture as its own. "That shade of blue," says a Russian man waiting in line for food, when asked to point to something distinctly Russian in the park, "it is very Russian." He is pointing to some bunting.

meat, without the jellied-meat fuss. The natural setting, beyond Olympic Park, is plenty exotic. There really are, as promised, palm trees along the coast, though several of those near the venues are fake, with plastic fronds that appear to serve as a nest for surveillance devices. Look north, and you see the CinemaScope-ready Caucasus Mountains, topped with snow. On a warm day, you get the tickling sensation that you are living in two opposite seasons at once. If anything, this place looks faintly Soviet. The designers chose asphalt for the enormous grounds - or what looks exactly like asphalt, anyway - and there is nothing quite so Soviet as a bunch of inhumanely scaled buildings amid acres of parking. The layout is simple. There is a handful of arenas, surround-